Singaporeans new target of kidnappers

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Aguinaldo, aide killed in ambush

BY ESTANISLAO CALDEZ AND VILLAMOR VISAYA JR.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Outgoing Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo and his security aide were ambushed and killed by three armed men

AGUINALDO/ A16

There they go again

BY A. NOCUM

IT'S THAT time of year.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Senators Rodolfo Biazon and Ramon Magsayay Jr. left for the United States last

THERE/ A6

I'M LEAVING ON A JET PLANE

A bloody 'gift' from Abu

Sabaya says American beheaded

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL AND ALEXANDER M. YOUNG
PDI Mindanao Bureau

A GRIM-FACED President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday promised foreign diplomats gathered in Malacañang that her administration would "decimate" the bandit group Abu Sayyaf, which announced earlier in the day that it had beheaded an American hostage as an "Independence Day present."

The President took time off from the morning celebrations to call an emergency Cabinet meeting after the bandits' spokesperson Abu Sabaya told Radio Mindanao Network (RMN) that he and his cohorts had "released" the headless body of "*amigo* (friend)" Guillermo Sobero, a Spanish-American from California.

Sabaya also said his group was cutting off all negotiations for the release of the remaining hostages. On Monday, however, Malacañang bowed to his demand that a Malaysian ex-senator, Sairin Karno, be included in the talks.

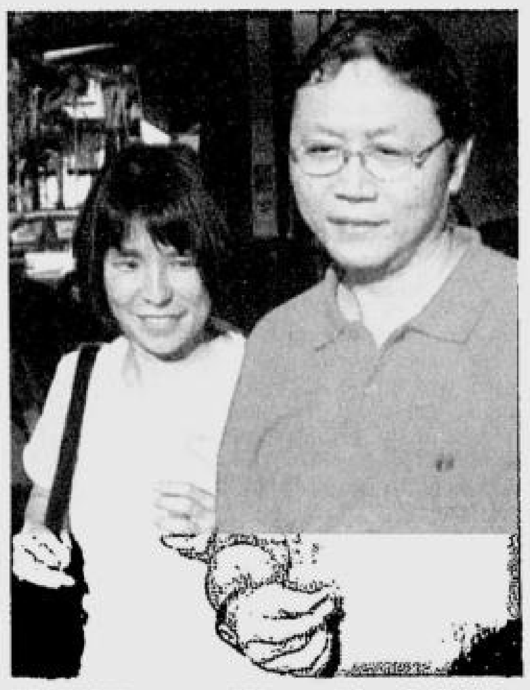
Sabaya said that they left Sobero's body on a roadside in Tuburan, Basilan, and that the military could still retrieve it if it had not been devoured by forest dogs.

Speaking at the *vin d' honneur* that she hosted for the diplomatic corps shortly before noon, Ms Macapagal said the military was still verifying Sabaya's statement.

"If the Abu Sayyaf's claim is accurate, it only emphasizes the fact that it is a merciless, ruthless group that has no qualms at all in murdering an innocent person for the sake of ransom money," she said.

"We condemn in the strongest possible terms this reported beheading of Mr. Sobero. To murder and behead a helpless person is as ruthless

A BLOODY/ A17



FOURTH Singaporean kidnapped since April: Victim Roger Yeo Cheow Meng with wife Ng Yiong Hua.

Singaporeans new target of kidnappers

NOT again. Kidnap gangs are active once more in Metro Manila, but their targets this time are not Chinese-Filipino but Singaporean businessmen.

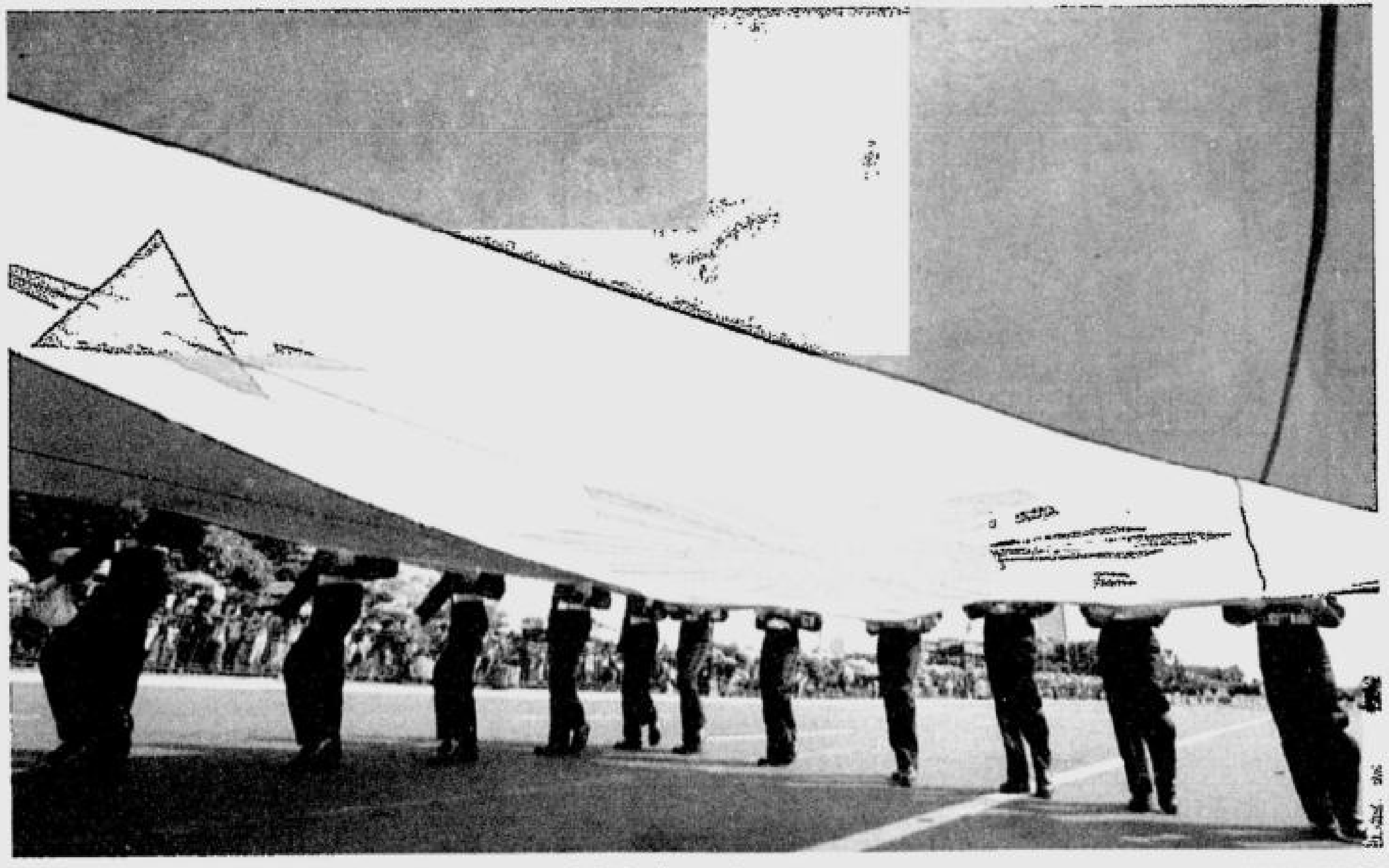
The Straits Times of Singapore reported yesterday that a Singaporean woman recently paid S$300,000 (P8.4 million) to her husband's Filipino kidnappers.

"I was cornered into a situation where I had to make a decision for the safety of my husband," Ng Yiong Hua told a media conference at the Straits Times office a day after she and her husband, Roger Yeo Cheow Meng, flew back to Singapore from Manila.

Yeo, 45, was abducted on June 1 by a group of armed men from his office in Muntinlupa

SINGAPOREANS/ A6

HERE'S to a future as sunny as sunflowers, a floral statement during the Independence Day parade at the Luneta. VAL HANDUMON



WHETHER upside down, the day's sentiments are upright for flag and country. VAL HANDUMON

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Rose petals shower on Gloria

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA AND NORMAN BORDADORA

RED AND WHITE rose petals from helicopters rained on President Macapagal-Arroyo after she laid a wreath of white orchids at the foot of the Rizal Monument on her first Independence Day as Chief Executive.

It was a departure from the past year's Independence Day celebrations when helicopters showered confetti on the monument.

While the helicopters circled, Navy ships docked at the Manila Bay yesterday honked their horns in unison. Church bells were supposed to peal simultaneously at that point.

After wreath-laying at the monument where the remains of national hero Dr. Jose Rizal were buried, Ms Macapagal did the rounds of the park.

She shook hands with guests properly dressed in Filipiniana and with promenading families in T-shirts and shorts who were out for a morning picnic at the park.

But news that the Abu Sayyaf beheaded one of the American hostages at precisely the time the President was leading the flag raising rites, dampened the celebratory mood.

The President went straight to Malacañang to hold meetings with defense, military and police officials.

The President was to deliver a message to the diplomatic corps, which in-

ROSE/ A16

One family's fear, loathing for the Abu Sayyaf

BY NASH MAULANA
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—This is one more story about the horrors the Abu Sayyaf has wrought upon its own land among their own kind. It is a little known story that didn't make to Page 1. But the bravery of the victims deserves to be extolled as the beastly Abu Sayyaf bandits deserve to be exterminated.

Last year, a Tausug family, who dared to fight it out with three Abu Sayyaf bandits killing all three, has been in hiding ever since.

They immediately left their hometown Maimbung in Sulu and came to live here but still in a state of constant fear and loathing for the Abu Sayyaf.

Narjima Dahim, 22, and her stepmother Cora, 31, said they had to leave Sulu that bloody afternoon of Sept. 26, when their family killed Abu Sayyaf leader, Commander Benjie alias Habib, and two of his men.

Rather than capitulate to the bandits, Marjima's father and uncle stood their ground to the death. Narjima lost her 48-year-old father, Haji Abdul Dahim, along with her uncle and cousin. Two other members of the Dahim household were wounded.

When the Abu Sayyaf men arrived in their village, Narjima recounted that her father had asked them to leave Maimbung in order to spare the civilians from the fighting.

Although the mostly foreign hostages that the Abu Sayyaf kidnapped from the Sipadan resort in Malaysia had been released, the Jesus is Lord group headed by Wilde Almeda was still being held along with Jeffrey Schilling and the last remain-

ONE/ A16

Mahathir: No request by RP for negotiator

KUALA LUMPUR—Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad yesterday said he had not received any request from Manila for a Malaysian negotiator to help resolve the hostage crisis in Basilan.

"I have not received this," Mahathir told reporters who had asked about such a request, according to the national news agency Bernama.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said on Monday that Manila had formally requested Kuala Lumpur to allow Sairin Karno, a Malaysian ex-senator, to assist in negotiations for the release of the Abu Sayyaf's hostages.

Asked whether Malaysian officials would allow Sairin to help negotiate if an official request were made, Mahathir said: "We will study it. If it is not too much of a problem, we will."

The Philippine government made the concession to the Abu Sayyaf after its spokesperson Abu Sabaya threatened to behead one of its three American hostages.

But despite this, Sabaya yesterday claimed the group had killed and beheaded hostage Guillermo Sobero of California and would stop negotiations. *(See banner story this page.)*

MAHATHIR/ A17

2 bandits killed in Tipo-tipo

BY CARLITO PABLO

TWO Abu Sayyaf bandits were killed and five soldiers were wounded in a clash in Tipo-tipo, Basilan, on Monday, a military spokesperson yesterday said.

Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said troops belonging to the 32nd Infantry Battalion in search of the bandits who took 28 hostages, including three Americans, clashed with an undetermined number of bandits at 2:30 p.m.

An Army patrol "encountered a band of Abu Sayyaf bandits killing two of them. On our side five soldiers were wounded," Adan said at a news conference.

Since sporadic fighting between the Abu Sayyaf and the military erupted on June 1, a total of 16 soldiers have been killed and 52 others wounded.

Six bandits have been killed while 10 civilians have been wounded.

In an attempt to end the hostage crisis, the government is unleashing the "dogs of war" against the bandits in Basilan.

Malacañang announced on Monday that two battalions from the battle-hardened Philippine Ma-

2 BANDITS/ A16

MABUTI NAMAN!

Second FRONT PAGE

Moro peace panel eyes MNLF model

Gordon unfazed by kidnap crisis

GORDON

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon on yesterday sought more money to promote the Philippines as a tourist haven, putting a brave face on a kidnapping crisis involving Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Gordon insisted there would be no long term effect on the tourism industry from the holding as hostage of 28 people, including three Americans, by Abu Sayyaf guerrillas in Basilan.

The rebels claimed yesterday that they had beheaded one of the Americans.

The abduction of some of the hostages from the Palawan resort of Dos Palmas last month was an "isolated case with temporary effects" on tourism, he said in a statement.

Gordon said he would seek a P750 million promotion budget for calendar 2002. The tourism department said it spent about P650 million annually to promote key tourist draws.

The Philippine tourism industry was one of the worst performers in the region last year, with arrivals down about four percent to 1.8 million, having been battered by similar Abu Sayyaf kidnappings last year and a crisis over the jailing of deposed leader Joseph Estrada.

But Gordon said the higher budget would enable the Philippines to draw three million foreign tourists.

"Tourism remains the potential cornerstone for the country's economic recovery," Gordon said in a statement. *AFP*

DAVAO CITY—Negotiations with the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front are being steered toward an agreement modeled on the 1996 peace accord with the Moro National Liberation Front.

Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema, a member of the government peace panel, said the talks with the MILF would eventually settle on an autonomy model similar to the one worked out with the MNLF.

Under this scenario, power sharing between the MILF and the MNLF would ensue, in which the two rival insurgent movements would vie for leadership in elections, Sema said at a meeting of the government panel here on Monday.

"Under the present circumstances, (the autonomy model) is the best for us to work on together for peace and development. The talks must be under the context of the 1996 final peace agreement," he said.

Independence

The 1996 peace accord with the MNLF provides for the establishment of an autonomous government for at least 14 provinces and 10 cities in Southern Philippines.

The MILF has insisted that the Moro people should be given independence.

The government panel, chaired by Undersecretary Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for regional concerns-Southern Mindanao, met to draft the government strategy for the talks.

The resolutions to will be presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Cabinet today.

Sema said power sharing is the hoped-for direction as "we can't (possibly) have a separate agreement with the MILF and another agreement with the MNLF since they occupy the same land."

Tripoli Agreement

He said anchoring the talks with the MILF on the 1996 final peace agreement, which actually implements the 1976 Tripoli Agreement, is the only way for the government to go.

The problem, however, is how to get the MILF to acknowledge the final peace agreement amid some contentious issues such as the conduct of a plebiscite expand the area of the autonomous region.

The MNLF earlier opposed the holding of a plebiscite because of the continued refusal of the Christian-dominated provinces to be included in the autonomous region.

The MILF did not participate in the talks that led to the 1996 peace accord, contending that the agreement did not provide a lasting solution to nor addressed the broad range of issues of "the Bangsamoro problem."

Some of the issues include the intrusion of settlers into the ancestral domain of the Moros and lumads, landlessness and the reduction of the Moro people into a minority in Mindanao.

Other problems

Other problems included human rights abuses, economic inequity, poverty and agrarian issues like land grabbing.

Sema said the course of the talks would still have to depend on what kind of demands the MILF would present.

Dureza said the first round of the talks would focus on the implementation of development projects in war-torn areas.

Based on the exploratory talks with the rebel group, Dureza said an agreement on the need to implement development projects in conflict areas was the most likely to be immediately reached.

"(Hopefully), we will be able to make agreements on development works for Mindanao even with the peace negotiations. We might also be able to decide on the mechanics of how these development projects are to be implemented," Dureza said.

Dureza said agreement could also be reached on the adoption of previously signed agreements but he did not specify what these agreements were. *Ayan C. Mellejor, Joel B. Escovilla and Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

PPC, PnM both cheated–Namfrel

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

CONCEPCION

BOTH the People Power Coalition and the Puwersa ng Masa have cried fraud in the ongoing canvass for Lanao del Sur, but the National Movement for Free Elections yesterday disclosed that candidates of both parties had actually benefited from vote-padding in the province.

Jose Concepcion, Namfrel chair, said the worst case of padding was noted in Bubong town, where the votes for nine PPC candidates and six PnM candidates were overstated by the thousands in certificates of canvass (COC) examined. The Namfrel came across the anomaly after noting that the election returns by precinct and the municipal COC did not tally.

Concepcion said there were also discrepancies between some election returns and COCs in the towns of Marogong, Masiu, Lumbayanague, Pualas, Calanogas and Lumba-Bayabao, indicating "*dagdag-bawas*" (vote-padding and –shaving) was employed.

'Dagdag-bawas'

"Cross examination between the Namfrel counts based on the sixth copy of the election returns against the fourth copy of the COCs and statements of votes showed that *dagdag-bawas* occurred in the said seven municipalities targeting national-level positions," Concepcion said in a news conference in Intramuros, Manila.

Concepcion, however, said padding and shaving were "not as scandalous as one would think."

"*Dagdag-bawas* was not wholesale because there appeared to be no problem with the canvassing in other towns," Concepcion said.

A Namfrel report on Bubong showed that votes for 12th placer Sen. Ralph Recto as reflected in the COC were 2,274 higher than his total votes as computed from the election returns. The votes for the PnM's Sen. Gregorio Honasan and Loi Ejercito were overstated in the COC by 4,789 and 4,832, respectively, it said.

The report also noted that votes for PPC candidates Joker Arroyo, Franklin Drilon, Juan Flavier, Francis Pangilinan, Manuel Villar Jr., Ernesto Herrera, Solita Monsod, and Wigberto Tañada of the PPC were overstated in the COCs. Also overstated were the votes for PnM bets Edgardo Angara Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Juan Ponce Enrile and Ricardo Puno.

Overstated

In Marogong town, the report said, Honasan's votes were overstated in the COC by 1,465 while Recto's votes were overstated by 13. Ejercito's votes were understated by 158.

"One solution to this is to declare a failure of elections (in Lanao del Sur)," Concepcion said. "It will be up to the Comelec."

Honasan got 1,866 votes against Recto's 551 in the official Comelec canvass of the COC from Marogong. Ejercito was credited with 137 votes.

As of the latest count in Lanao del Sur on Monday, with three out of 39 municipal COCs canvassed, Honasan was leading with a total of 6,605 votes against Recto's 3,367. Ejercito had 5,210 votes.

Maceda asked to account for 25 Washington staffers

FORMER Ambassador to the United States Ernesto Maceda is being asked to account for the 25 individuals he brought to the US as members of his staff.

Their whereabouts are now unknown. One of them is a fraternity member convicted for the hazing death of Leny Villa 10 years ago.

Sources at the Department of Foreign Affairs said Maceda would asked for the whereabouts of the 25, who were issued official passports so that they could join the former ambassador's "private staff."

So far, only nine of the 25 have been identified.

They are Adelina San Pascual and Jacqueline Baltazar, housemaid; Lilia Berdan, Odette Orevillo and Cicel Naga, domestic helper. Maria Belen Feliciano, cook; Dalmacio Lim Jr., personal valet; Ernesto Calanog, chef; and Bernadette Torres, private secretary.

Lim, an Ateneo law graduate, is one of the 26 members of the Aquila Legis fraternity convicted and sentenced to up to 14 years for the hazing death of Villa in 1991. The 26 have appealed their conviction before the Court of Appeals where the case is still pending.

According to the DFA sources, the nine Maceda staff members have been found to have "questionable reasons for entering and staying in the US."

"We smell something fishy, considering that he (Maceda) was allowed to bring in 25 persons, who to us don't look like domestic helpers after all," the sources said on condition of anonymity.

The sources added it was "highly irregular" how Maceda was able to secure official passports for so many individuals.

Ambassadors and high-ranking envoys are usually allowed to bring in only two or three persons as members of his personal staff, apart from their immediate family.

Even former Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon Jr. expressed surprise when asked how Maceda was able to bring to the US 25 members of his personal staff.

"That is very impossible . . . 25 persons, all with official passports? I don't think so," Siazon said.

An official passport is issued only to a person who will be on official business abroad on behalf of the government.

The official passport has the effect of guaranteeing the return of the holder who will seek visa from the host country.

"The DFA expects envoys to be more prudent when bringing in househelp. Four may be reasonable enough," the sources said.

Maceda had earlier this year tried but failed to bring home four luxury vehicles without paying the appropriate taxes.

The former ambassador tried to import a 2000 Mercedes Benz S500, which is worth P3.9 million in the US; a 2000 Toyota SUV at P2.6 million and two 2001 BMW X5 at P3 million each.

The vehicles were assessed a total of P11.5 million in taxes.

DFA regulations stipulate that a returning envoy may only bring home luxury cars provided he was able to stay in his post for at least two years and that vehicles were registered at least six months prior to the transport.

Maceda was appointed ambassador by former President Joseph Estrada a year after he lost the election for Manila mayor in the 1998. He resigned on Dec. 30, 2000 to work as Estrada's spokesman in the impeachment trial. That means he was at his post less than two years.

His term was extended so he could attend the inaugural of US President George W. Bush but was not able to fulfill this duty because President Macapagal-Arroyo had already assumed office.

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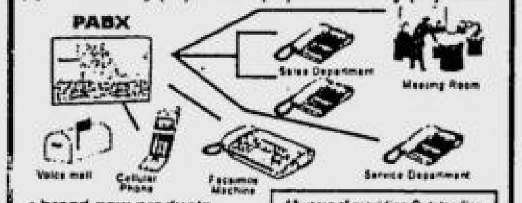

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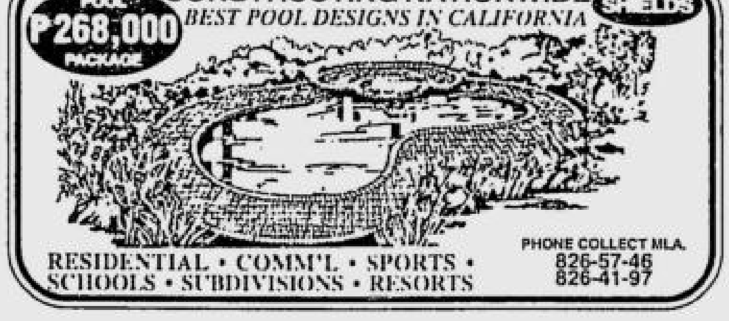

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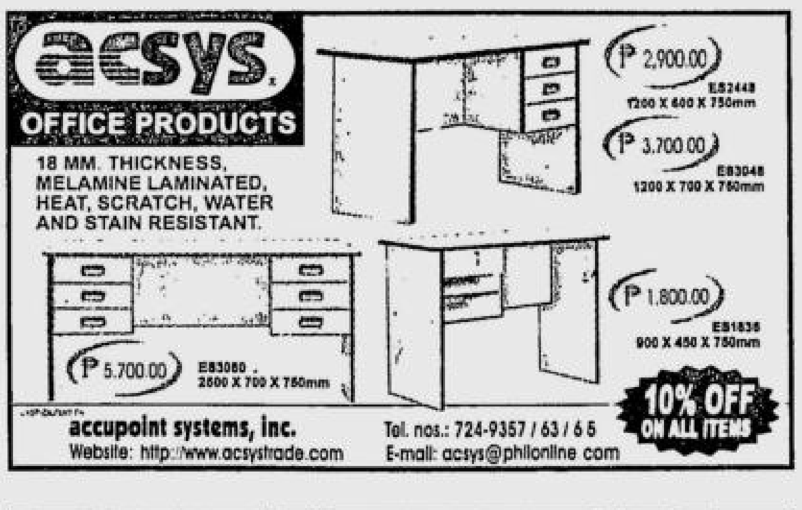

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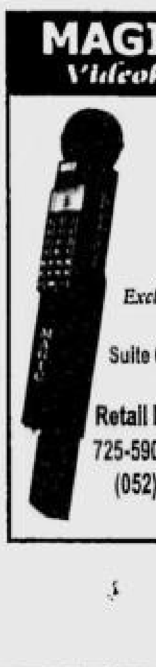

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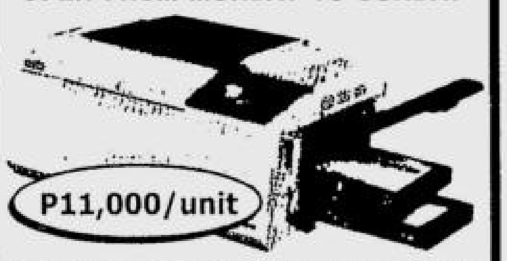

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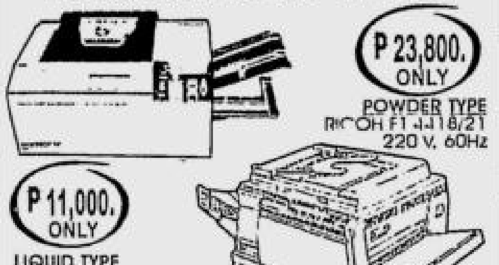

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BEWARE OF FAKE SUPPLIES AND MISREPRESENTATIONS!

Gloria to form transparency, anti-corruption watchdog

By Juliet L. Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said she plans to create a privately funded "governance advisory council" which will serve as a watchdog against corruption and to promote transparency in governance.

The President made the announcement in a speech at the centennial anniversary of the Supreme Court on Monday night.

She said the council would be her way of reciprocating the high court for "three 13-0 votes" upholding the legitimacy of her presidency against the challenges of her ousted predecessor Joseph Estrada.

"That's the least I can do with the Supreme Court ruling on the legitimacy of this government," she said, saying justice is inseparable to good governance and democracy.

The President said she has issued Executive Order No. 12 strengthening the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission which has the power to investigate officials with the rank of assistant director up to the highest member of the Cabinet.

In addition to this, she said she is "developing the concept" of the advisory council to further lick corruption in government and uphold the moral leadership she has vowed to provide.

"I view this body as a key strategy for demonstrating that our country is transparent in governance and does not and will not tolerate corrupt practices," the President said in a speech at the SC anniversary program held at the Manila Hotel.

She said the council would be privately funded and its members would be chosen from respected leaders of the private sector, industry statesmen and women.

They will be appointed by the President for a fixed term and will not receive any emolument from government, she said.

"It will be advisory to the President on a range of governance issues. It will use its stature to reform corporate and government behavior using such instruments as Codes of Conduct, awards programs and policy roundtables," she said.

The council, she said, would seek solutions to the "governance and corruption issues."

"Under the terms of reference, governance shall be defined as the manner in which power is exercised in the management of the nation's resources for growth and profitability," she said.

She said the council could promulgate a Philippine Code of Corporate Governance, or a Code of Ethics to curb corruption, study tax evasion and tax reforms, and how to strengthen the judicial system against graft and corruption.

She said she wants the formation of the council because she was "inspired by the leadership of the Supreme Court and its drive towards integrity."

The President hailed the high court as "one of the proudest judiciaries in Asia."

She thanked in particular Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. for his role in the impeachment trial and for administering the oath of office to her on Jan. 20, and called him the "Filipino of the Year."

She said the "centennial SC" enjoys the respect of the people because of its integrity.

"As long as the high tribunal has the respect of our people, democracy is safe," she said.

Chief justice dreams of hi-tech high court

CHIEF Justice Hilario Davide Jr. hopes to fully realize the judicial reforms he has initiated before he retires in 2005.

Davide vowed to put in place projects such as the paperless courts and hi-tech trials in his speech delivered at a special en banc session on Monday for the 11th Centenary Lecture highlighting the 100th anniversary for the high court.

Chief justices and justices from Australia, China, India, Thailand, Israel and Canada attended the lecture."

Davide noted that as the last bulwark of democracy, the SC should be composed of integrity where the public can have full faith and confidence in and that the Philippine Judicial Academy will become the "pride of the Asia-Pacific."

"Change is happening right now," he asserted.

Davide also pledged to deal with the country's cramped and decrepit courts by establishing "bigger structures" that will be complete with the latest equipment and other technologically advanced facilities.

"Our courts will be housed in decent if not impressive structures which would exclusively belong to the judiciary, complete with the latest tools of technology that afford efficiency in court and case management," Davide said.

And in its mission to serve the people who long for justice, Davide said the judiciary will have a "human face not distant from the people."

"This judiciary will have all the tools necessary to realize this objective," he said.

More than 1,500 computers are scheduled to be distributed among the lower courts with each having the necessary software containing the tribunal's rulings for the last century.

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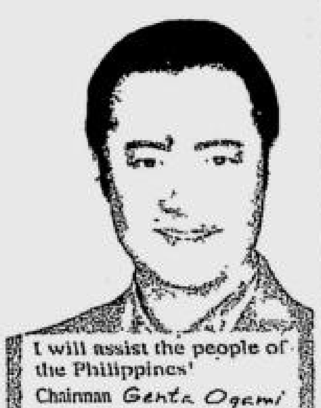

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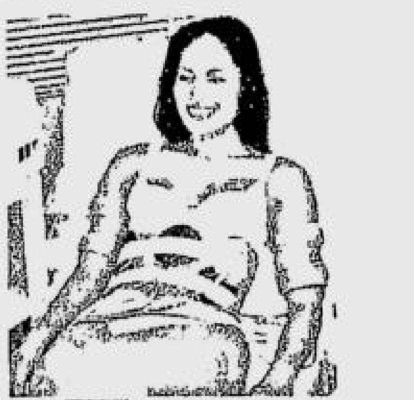

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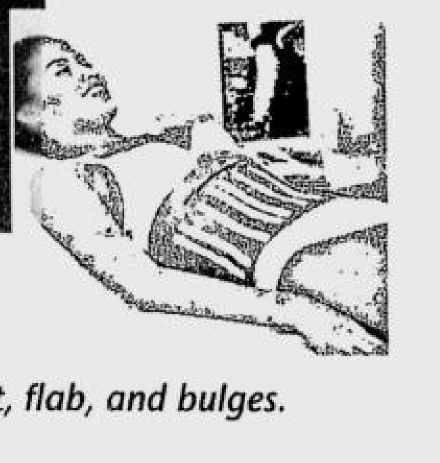

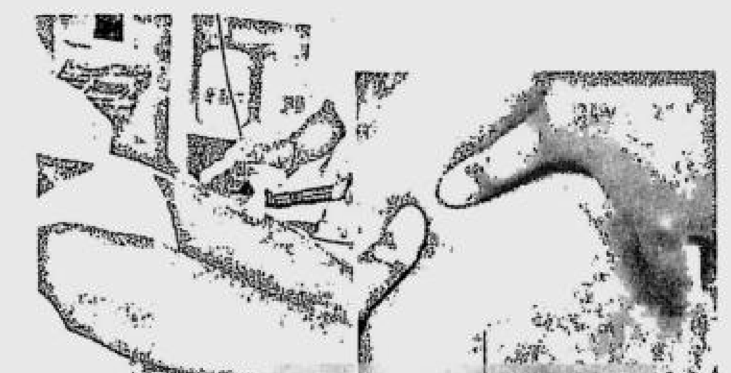

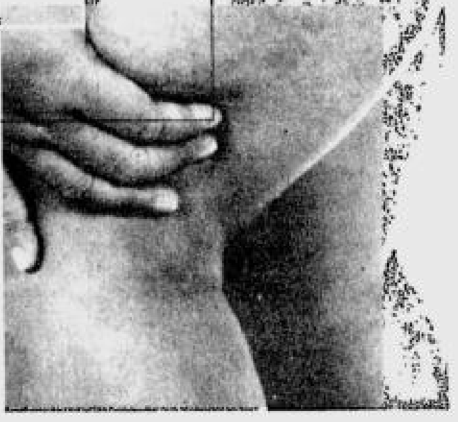

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SENATE PRESIDENCY

PPC hoping to field just one candidate

By Christine Avendaño

ALL of them being "statesmen," the three pro-administration senators aspiring for the Senate presidency can work out a compromise and come up with only one contender for the post.

At least this is what Joey Rufino, national executive director of the Lakas-NUCD, the dominant party in the administration's People Power Coalition, would like to believe.

But in the House speakership race, Rufino said he was disturbed by the declaration of Lakas' PPC party coalition partners that they would be choosing a candidate to challenge Lakas official Rep. Jose de Venecia for the top post.

Though he has not personally discussed the Senate race with the three PPC contenders—Senators Renato Cayetano, Franklin Drilon and Senator-elect Joker Arroyo—Rufino said he believed it would be "best" to have a common candidate for the post.

Rufino, who also serves as the political adviser President Macapagal-Arroyo, said the three could always consult with the President if they wanted to.

But he believes the President "would rather they solve the issue among themselves."

Cayetano earlier said the President would likely support the candidate who is able to get "critical mass" in the race.

But he said that while he and Drilon had been discussing the matter for weeks, a full discussion within the coalition would only happen at the end of the month when vacationing senators return from their overseas trips.

Neophyte senators led by Senator-elect Ralph Recto are pushing for Arroyo's candidacy though Arroyo himself has kept silent on the matter.

In the race for Speaker, Rufino pronounced himself surprised at the move of certain coalition partners of the PPC, including members of a so-called "progressive Lakas" bloc, to choose their own candidate to challenge De Venecia.

At a meeting yesterday among PPC's coalition partners, Renato de Villa of Reporma and Education Secretary Raul Roco of Aksyon Demokratiko, said they would choose a contender for the top House post from among Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad, incoming Cebu Rep. Raul del Mar, and Palawan Rep. Vicente Sandoval.

Rufino said he was offended by the statements of the PPC party leaders, which he said amounted to their dumping Lakas.

"(Lakas) worked for an 8-4-1 victory in the senatorial race... It's our people who fought for them (the coalition candidates)," Rufino said.

He admitted being disturbed over this development that is apparently aimed at "(driving) a wedge" between the coalition partners and Lakas.

Members of the "progressive Lakas" bloc, he said, have to explain why they were dealing with these PPC coalition leaders.

He said Lakas officials, among them former President Fidel Ramos, are now talking of holding a caucus on this issue.

Ramos is chair emeritus of the party.

With the elections over, Rufino said it was time for the party to reassess the situation and discuss its short-term plans, particularly in regard to the Senate and House leadership issues.

PnM: It's Angara vs Pimentel

SENATOR-ELECT Edgardo Angara yesterday confirmed that he is seeking the Senate presidency, but said he would defer his candidacy and support whoever is chosen as the opposition's common candidate.

Angara also said that the Senate opposition, led by his Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, would be able to capture the Senate presidency and emerge as the majority party.

The LDP earlier agreed to field just one candidate to challenge the administration's common candidate.

Angara, the LDP president, confirmed that he was one of those being considered.

Opposition senators were earlier reported to be choosing between Angara and Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Pimentel, the president of the PDP-Laban party, who had sided with the anti-Estrada forces during the Edsa people power uprising in January, is still not considered part of the pro-administration bloc.

ANGARA

PIMENTEL

Administration Senators Franklin Drilon and Rene Cayetano are challenging Pimentel for his post.

Angara said he was confident that the opposition coalition can take the Senate presidency and become the majority in the Senate.

"There are eight of us (belonging to the LDP), which is the biggest (political) bloc. And we also have allies among some independent senators. We are prepared. We have a good chance, a very high probability that we can have. . . a working majority," Angara said. *Dona Pazzibugan*

Joker's wild in high-stakes Senate race

By Armand N. Nocum

SENATOR-ELECT Joker Arroyo, a dark horse in the race for the Senate presidency, will find himself going up against tradition and history if he decides to be serious about his as yet unannounced bid.

This early, his rivals for the post doubt whether the star of the impeachment trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada will be able to pull an upset.

"There is nothing in the history of the Senate, I do not know of any instance, where a neophyte senator was elected (to the Senate's highest post)," Sen. Franklin Drilon said in a telephone interview.

"Seniority is a fact of life in the Senate," said Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Renato Cayetano

Administration Senators Drilon and Cayetano, and the independent Pimentel, are the declared candidates for the post.

Arroyo has yet to announce his bid although a group of neophyte senators has taken up his candidacy.

Senator-elect Manuel Villar has claimed that Arroyo can be considered senior because of his vast experience in legislative work in the House.

To this, Drilon countered that what counts in the Senate is actual experience in the upper chamber.

"Seniority in the Senate is the one that is considered in the tradition of Senate leadership," Drilon said, although he admitted that there was no specific rule to stop neophytes from aspiring for the post.

Senate tradition

"The tradition in the Senate is that the Senate presidency is contested by those who have seniority in the Senate," he said.

Turning to his other rivals, Drilon scoffed at the claim of Pimentel and Cayetano that they each had the promised support of more than 13 senators.

Under the Rules of the Senate, officers of the Senate have to be elected by the "majority vote of all its members."

The majority vote in the 24-member Senate is 13.

Cayetano, meanwhile, said that he may have the upper hand in the administration coalition, being a stalwart of the Lakas-NUCD, the dominant coalition partner.

Drilon, who left the party years ago, is now back, having run for reelection under the pro-administration People Power Coalition.

Drilon said he and Cayetano had agreed that the Senate president should come from the PPC and that the other contenders should support the strongest among them.

He said he doubted Cayetano, or anyone else, has the numbers.

"None of us has the numbers at this point... everything's fluid," he said.

Like the other aspirants, he said he had been making the rounds of his colleagues and "feeling their pulse."

"It's still too early, still hard to get them to commit with certainty," he said.

Apparently their colleagues are also playing coy.

Sen. Juan Flavier said he had been approached by some candidates, but has not committed to support any.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said he would make up his mind when he returns from a holiday in the United States.

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Cephalexin Capsule 500 mg	11 00	Paracetamol Tablet 500 mg	0 90
Chloramphenicol Suspension 125 mg/5 mL. 60 mL	63 00	Rifampicin Suspension 100 mg/5 mL 60 mL	75 00
Combi Pack - INH-Rifam-PZA 300/450/500 mg	27 00 day	Rifampicin Capsule 450 mg	15.00
Combi Pack - INH-Rifam 300/450 mg	18 00/day	Salbutamol Syrup 2 mg/5 mL. 60 mL	42 00
Co-trimoxazole Suspension (TM-40 mg. SMZ-200 mg). 60 mL	56 00	Salbutamol Tablet 2 mg	.75
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- Salespersons are also entitled to cash prize if winner comes from their respective store. Salespersons must indicate his/her name on the warranty card before giving the same to the customer.
- Only entries received on or before July 30, 2001 will be included in the draw.
- Draw date for all qualified entries is on August 1, 2001, 2:00 pm at AVESCO Marketing Corporation, Aurora Boulevard corner Yale Street, Cubao, Quezon City.
- Grand draw will be witnessed by a DTI representative.
- A winner can only win once. If he/she should win more than once, he/she gets the prize with greater value.
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- 20% taxes on prizes exceeding P10,000 are to be paid by the winners. Prizes can be claimed at their respective dealers specified in the registered notice.
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As of December 31, 1999

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Bonds	62,313,996 00
Stocks	26,343,228 41
Real Estate	10,672,718 00
Collateral Loans	115,003 00
Other Loans	192,053 00
Security Fund	17,902 00
Other Investments	16,382,500 00
Cash in Office and in Banks	2,962,901.78
Premiums Receivable	4,466,336 00
Premiums Due From Ceding Companies..	13,640,202 66
Premiums Reserve Withheld by Ceding Companies	13,103 00
Reinsurance Recoverable on Losses..	6,024,966 00
Accrued Investment Income	220,256 08
EDP Equipment	551,576.11
Total Admitted Assets	P 184,741,962.04

LIABILITIES

Losses and Claims Payable	P 8,438,151.05
Catastrophe Loss Reserve	280,755 55
Reserve for Unearned Premiums	19,459,122 00
Premiums Due to Reinsurers	16,538,240 79
Premiums Reserve Withheld for Reinsurers	539,658 00
Loss Reserve Withheld for Reinsurers	12,798.00
Taxes Payable	5,962,214 43
Accounts Payable	844,757.00
Unearned Bond Liabilities	3,779,896.00
Other Liabilities	4,533,515.00
Total Liabilities	P 60,389,107.82

STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Capital Stock Paid-up	P 50,000,000.00	
Fluctuation Reserve		
- Stock/Bond Investment	15,090,769.41	
- Other Investment	1,150,000.00	
Retained Earnings	58,112,084.81	
Stockholders' Equity		P124,352,854.22
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity...		P184,741,962.04

(This Synopsis, prepared from the 1999 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code of 1978, as amended.)

DAR exec takes leave in shooting aftermath

By Cynthia D. Balana

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza yesterday accepted the offer of a DAR official in Davao City to go on leave following Monday's shooting incident in the regional office that left eight protesting farmers and a janitor injured.

Speaking from Oslo, Norway, where he is attending the peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front, Braganza ordered DAR Undersecretary Efren Moncupa to assist the wounded farmers in filing criminal charges against the security guards involved in the shooting.

"I condemn this violent action which resulted in the wounding of our farmers. This administration does not condone such violence, and I am extending my apologies to all those injured," Braganza said in a statement faxed from Oslo.

Braganza, along with other members of the government panel, left Saturday night for Oslo to attend the resumption of peace negotiation between the government and the NDF.

"I have repeatedly instructed our field officers to exercise maximum tolerance in dealing with protesting farmers," Braganza said.

"That is why I immediately adopted an open-door policy at all offices of DAR when I assumed office last February," he added.

Initial reports reaching the DAR central office showed that the violence erupted when about 100 farmers affiliated with Unorka held a rally in front of the DAR regional office in Davao City and padlocked its main gate.

One of the DAR security guards reportedly shot the padlock, shattering it into fragment that hit eight of the rallyists and a janitor detailed at the DAR regional office.

Those wounded were reportedly rushed to the hospital for treatment of slight injuries. Two of the three security guards assigned in the area at the time of the shooting surrendered to the police shortly after the incident.

Informed of the incident, Braganza reportedly got furious and instructed Moncupa to take the first available flight to Davao City to conduct an investigation on who among the DAR executives in the area should be held responsible for the incident.

DAR Regional Director Rodolfo Inson, who was in his office at the time of the shooting, voluntarily offered to go on leave pending investigation of the incident.

Inson expressed regrets over the shooting, saying he had not issued any instruction to the security guards to use force on the protesting farmers.

"I am voluntarily going on leave so that nobody can accuse me of using my position to influence the investigation to be conducted by the Office of the Secretary," Inson said.

"In so doing, I also wish to demonstrate my sense of responsibility as the regional director in the area," he added.

FARMERS' COMPLAINT

'Erap's DAR treated us better'

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE ESTRADA administration treated them better.

This was the surprise statement yesterday of militant farmers and their allies who had supported President Macapagal-Arroyo during Edsa 2 as they ask her to sack Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza in the wake of the shooting of farmers in Davao City Monday.

Leaders of the Ugnayan ng Nagkakaisa at Nagsasariling Organisasyon sa Kanayunan (Unorka) and the party-list group Akbayan said Braganza is not even familiar with some of his department's programs.

They said the former congressman seemed to be more interested in pursuing peace talks with communist rebels in faraway Norway than solving the peasants' problem in countryside.

"I find it frightfully ironic that while he is talking peace (with the rebels), his men are inflicting violence on poor peasants," Akbayan party-list representative Etta Rosales told the INQUIRER.

"My favorite former Spice Boy should now consider choosing what he really wants. If he has opted to be a permanent negotiator, then he should leave and give his DAR post to others who are more qualified," Rosales added.

The militant groups' loss of confidence on their erstwhile ally came after Department of Agrarian Reform guards in Davao City opened fire on Unorka members who tried to padlock the DAR office.

Nine farmers were injured with victim Edgar Nabasquez in critical condition after he was hit four times, said Evangeline Mendoza, Unorka national coordinator.

"If DAR officials only came out to meet them, this brutal show of force would not have happened," Mendoza said.

The farmers were picketing the DAR office because they wanted an order, issued during the previous administration, that awarded farmlands to them.

"We don't know why the department has yet to implement (former agrarian reform secretary Horacio) Morales' order when the other side is not even asking for a review of that EO," Mendoza said.

She added that more and more of their members are now determined to ask the President to remove Braganza from DAR because of his non-performance.

"The previous administration treated us better. They were very accessible. Our members knew Morales personally. Now, even if Braganza had walked into the room, our members still don't recognize him," Mendoza said.

He explained that it was very hard to get a meeting with Braganza and that he would even cancel meetings at the last minute.

Worse, Braganza not even familiar with the basic programs of his department, she said.

"He would ask our members during our meetings what the acronyms of DAR programs stood for," Mendoza said.

She added that Braganza would joke that DAR was a "headache" for him and that he would "only be in for seven months" (before the new Commission on Appointments decides on his confirmation).

"He said that in jest but that was in bad taste. I mean, here we are seriously fighting for small plots of land for so long now and he could just joke like that in our meetings," Mendoza said.

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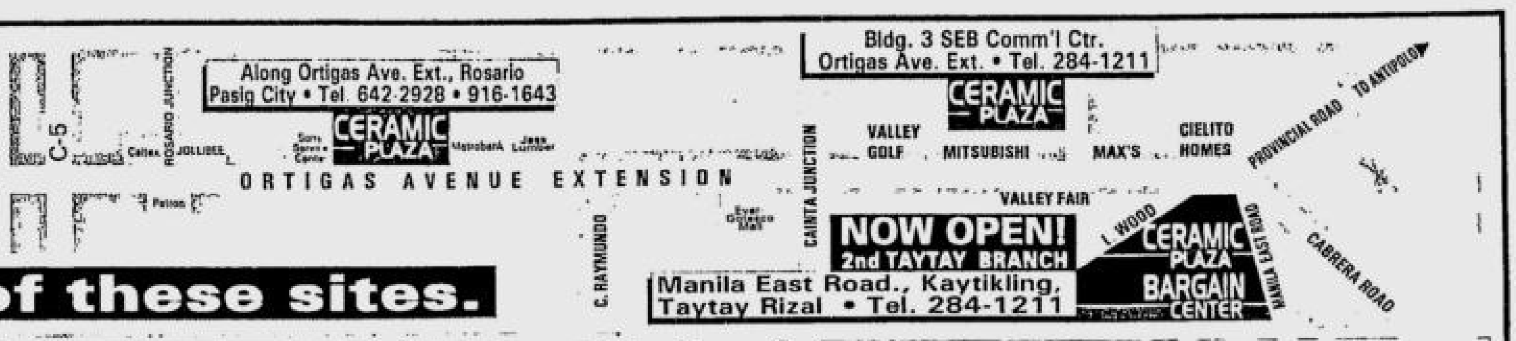

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Singaporeans new target of kidnappers

(From page A1)

City. He was the fourth Singaporean kidnapped in Metro Manila since April.

Yeo was freed on June 9 after eight days in captivity during which his kidnappers blindfolded him.

"I'm very happy that they let me go," he said, although he admitted he was still in a state of shock.

During his ordeal, he spent most of his time sitting or sleeping on a wooden plank, with his hands and legs bound.

Asked what he was thinking during those long, dark hours, Yeo said: "I kept telling myself to stay very calm and wait."

He said three or four of his captors kept constant watch over him but did not harm him. They spoke in Filipino among themselves and in English to him.

Recounting his kidnapping, Yeo said: "I was outside my office smoking a cigarette. When I turned to go back in, they came in and forced me to the ground."

The kidnappers blindfolded him, tied his hands up with a telephone wire and bundled him into a vehicle.

A report from the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame said three armed men seized Yeo at the JSS Integrated Services Inc. office in Muntinlupa City about 8:30 a.m.

Ransom demand

Thirteen hours later, Ng received a call from her husband who told her that he was all right and that his kidnappers wanted S$1 million (P28 million).

"I cried the whole night when he called me. It came to me as a shock. I did not know what to do. I was very lost," said the 42-year-old mother of two who helps run her husband's business from Singapore.

"Then, I decided I had cried enough and I had to do something," she added.

The following morning, Ng sought help from the Singaporean Ministry of Foreign Affairs who put her in touch with the Singaporean Embassy in Manila.

She also sought advice from friends, surfed the Net to find out more about the situation in the Philippines, and discussed the matter with her family.

Then, she took matters into her own hands. She and a trusted male friend negotiated with the kidnappers for a much lower ransom. She raised the money with the help of family members and friends.

"I agree that the police were doing their best, but it could be that I was a bit impatient," Ng said.

On Thursday, Ng and her friend flew to Manila. At about midnight on Saturday, they received a call from the kidnappers who called Ng's friend on his mobile phone and told him where to leave the money.

Her friend took the canvas bag containing the ransom and dropped it at the designated point.

Ng and her friend waited for three and a half hours. "It was the most terrible moment in my life. But there was nothing I could do. I'd done my best," she said.

The kidnappers kept their end of the bargain and freed their hostage.

Yeo said the kidnappers gave him money for taxi fare and left him on a road to find his own way to his wife's hotel room.

"I kept going northward for about 20 minutes before I managed to flag down a cab," Yeo recalled. He turned up at the hotel at about 4:30 a.m.

Yeo said he was glad his wife had made the right decision.

"The second time I heard her voice, I was very confident that she knew what had to be done. The third time, I knew I would be out very soon," he said.

Yeo said he was still mystified as to why the kidnappers chose him as a target as he did not lead a flashy lifestyle.

Asked if she was concerned that her action would make other Singaporeans vulnerable to future kidnappings, Ng said: "I agree that the police were doing their best. But it could be that I was a little bit impatient. I just wanted to get him out as soon as possible."

Even so, she said she was happy her husband's ordeal was over.

"We're all home—very relieved," Ng said, adding that she and her husband had not yet thought about returning to their trading business in Manila. "We have no plans for that yet. It's too big a decision."

Concern

Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said its embassy in the Philippines had registered its concern over the safety of Singaporeans after the kidnapping of another businessman, Benedict Leong Kim Chay, in April.

"After Mr. Yeo's case, our embassy has again requested the Philippine authorities to ensure the safety of our nationals," the ministry said in a statement.

"Immediately after the first case, our embassy also advised our nationals in the Philippines through the Singapore-Philippine Association to exercise extra care and caution."

A ministry spokesperson declined to comment on a third kidnapping incident which newspapers said involved two businessmen from Singapore.

Leong and his business associate from Hong Kong, Judith Chan, were kidnapped by a group of armed men in police uniforms at the Chinatown area in Binondo, Manila.

Leong and Chan run an overseas recruitment agency that sends maids to Asian countries.

Leong reportedly paid his abductors S$150,000 (P4.2 million).

About a month later, Singapore businessmen Jimmy Chun and Foo Jong King of Singapore were held captive in their hotel room by a local gang with the help of a Singaporean resident in the Philippines.

The National Bureau of Investigation arrested a suspect, William Chee, after members of the gang tipped off the police about the kidnapping.

Chee denied any involvement in the kidnapping, saying that he was threatened at gunpoint by "very powerful people."

Chee has a Filipino wife and three sons here. Immigration agents said he had been living here for the past seven years.

Chun and Foo have returned to Singapore.

Ethnic Chinese-Filipino or overseas Chinese businessmen have been the favorite targets of kidnap gangs as the victims have been more willing to pay ransom than seek police help.

Local anti-crime groups say that some rogue police officers are involved in kidnap gangs. *Reports from Straits Times/Asian News Network, AP, AFP, Reuters and Dave Veridiano*

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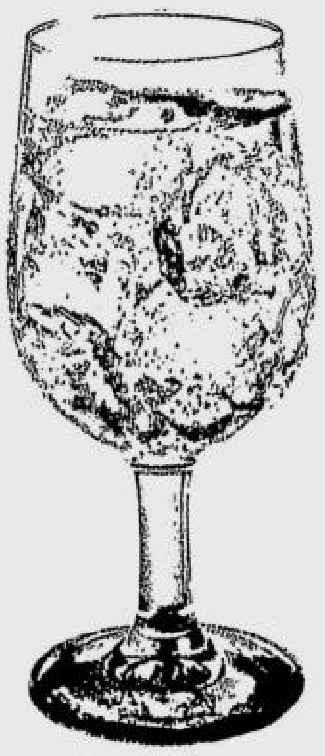

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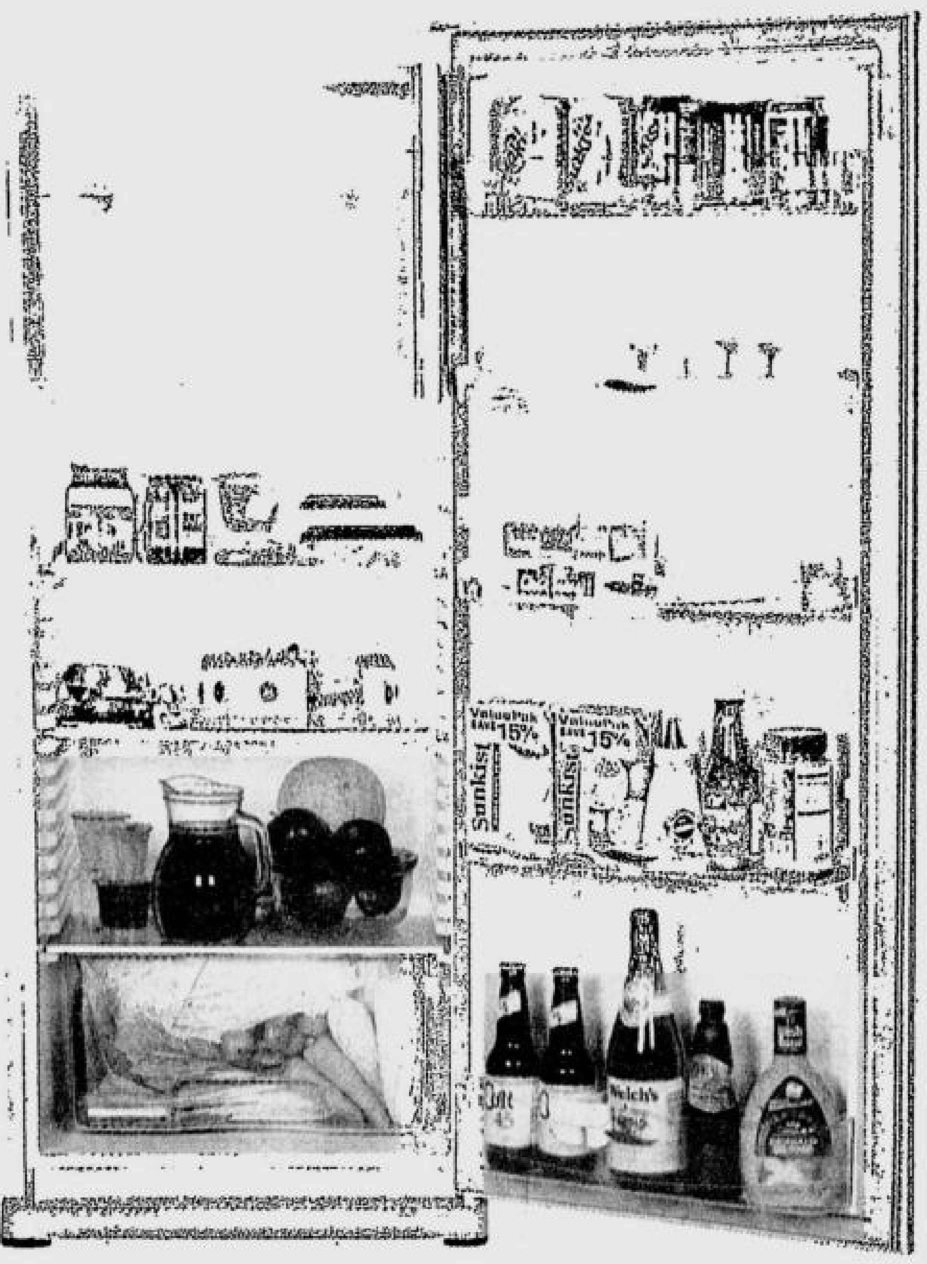

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(From page A1)

week immediately after the 11th Congress adjourned.

Senators Francisco Tatad, Juan Flavier, Loren Legarda and Robert Jaworski recently returned from foreign trips.

Senators Vicente Sotto and Miriam Defensor-Santiago will be leaving soon.

Still trying to make up his mind about leaving for abroad is Sen. Franklin Drilon.

Their reasons vary. Pimentel said he was spending Independence Day with Filipino-Americans. Biazon was to attend a United Nations meeting. Magsaysay explained he was visiting his daughter and grandchildren. And so forth and so on.

Excuses. Excuses.

Wearying events

But there were two reasons common to the flying senators: the recent elections and the series of historic events from the first-ever impeachment trial of a Philippine president to the Edsa III uprising to the "May I Mayhem."

These events, coming one after the other without respite, sapped their energies, the senators said.

Magsaysay, who left on Monday night, said he was taking off for three weeks to relax in order to "have a better perspective when we come back."

Magsaysay said he had been unable to travel since July last year because of the series of political upheavals starting with the *jueteng* pay-offs scandal.

Magsaysay said the last campaign and elections had also been very taxing for him.

There was "so much anger, suspicion and divisiveness among the social classes that was engendered by the former administration," Magsaysay said.

There was a distortion of the real issues at stake in the elections, he said.

Drilon said he, too, felt that the electoral campaign had been harder on him than the previous ones.

"The campaign was really tough. People were divided down the line—pro-Erap and anti-Erap. Yes, it was taxing emotionally," Drilon said.

Administration sources said that some of the People Power Coalition senatorial candidates and their campaign staff had been traumatized by incidents of harassment, tomato-throwing and the boorish behavior of Estrada loyalists towards them. The killing of several PPC candidates and supporters had also been emotionally draining.

Emerging from Edsa II and haunted by Edsa Tres, Drilon said it was important for the administration senators to show that there was peace and order in the first major political event under the Macapagal-Arroyo administration.

"We have come out of a People Power II uprising, it is critical that we're able to show stability with a peaceful election," he said.

NEW SOLON MALACAÑANG PHOTO

President Macapagal-Arroyo swears into office Representative-elect Ted Failon of Leyte's first district during a ceremony in Malacañang recently. The former ABS-CBN broadcaster, who won over his incumbent rival Rep. Alfred Romualdez in the recently concluded congressional race in Tacloban, is shown with his family.

PCGG admits it can't maintain Marcos assets

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government yesterday admitted that it could not maintain the physical quality of some sequestered and surrendered Marcos property, which have deteriorated due to the government's poor maintenance.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza Jr. said the PCGG would have to tap other government agencies to oversee the maintenance of real estate property seized from the Marcoses and their cronies because the PCGG lacked funds.

Carranza has ordered an inventory of all Marcos assets, particularly the resorts and houses owned by the Marcos family, to check if these were still viable for disposal until the resolution of the cases involving the assets.

The initial report on the rest houses of the Marcoses in northern Luzon showed that some had deteriorated and been neglected by the government.

"We wanted to check the physical state of the property," Carranza told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday. "Some are not so good. They don't look good in the pictures (sent with the report)."

Carranza said the PCGG's budget was "not substantial" to maintain the physical quality of surrendered and sequestered Marcos real estate assets.

The new PCGG official also stressed that government agencies "with competence" in the real estate, such as the Philippine Tourism authority and the National Housing Authority, should help in the maintenance of the Marcos property.

The recent inventory included only the Marcos beach houses and resorts in La Union, Pangasinan and Ilocos Norte. The report on the state of other Marcos property should be in this week, Carranza said.

The PCGG has already issued an order to padlock the 45-hectare Marcos property in Tolosa, Leyte, after it was learned that former first lady Imelda Marcos has been staying occasionally in the presidential resort since 1994.

The resort, which houses a presidential guesthouse and rest house, swimming pool and golf course, was seized by the PCGG in 1986, but Mrs. Marcos still had the keys to the main buildings.

Carranza said Mrs. Marcos acquired an authorization from former PCGG chair Magtanggol Gunigundo to visit the place and make repairs for the 50th anniversary celebration of the Leyte landing in 1994.

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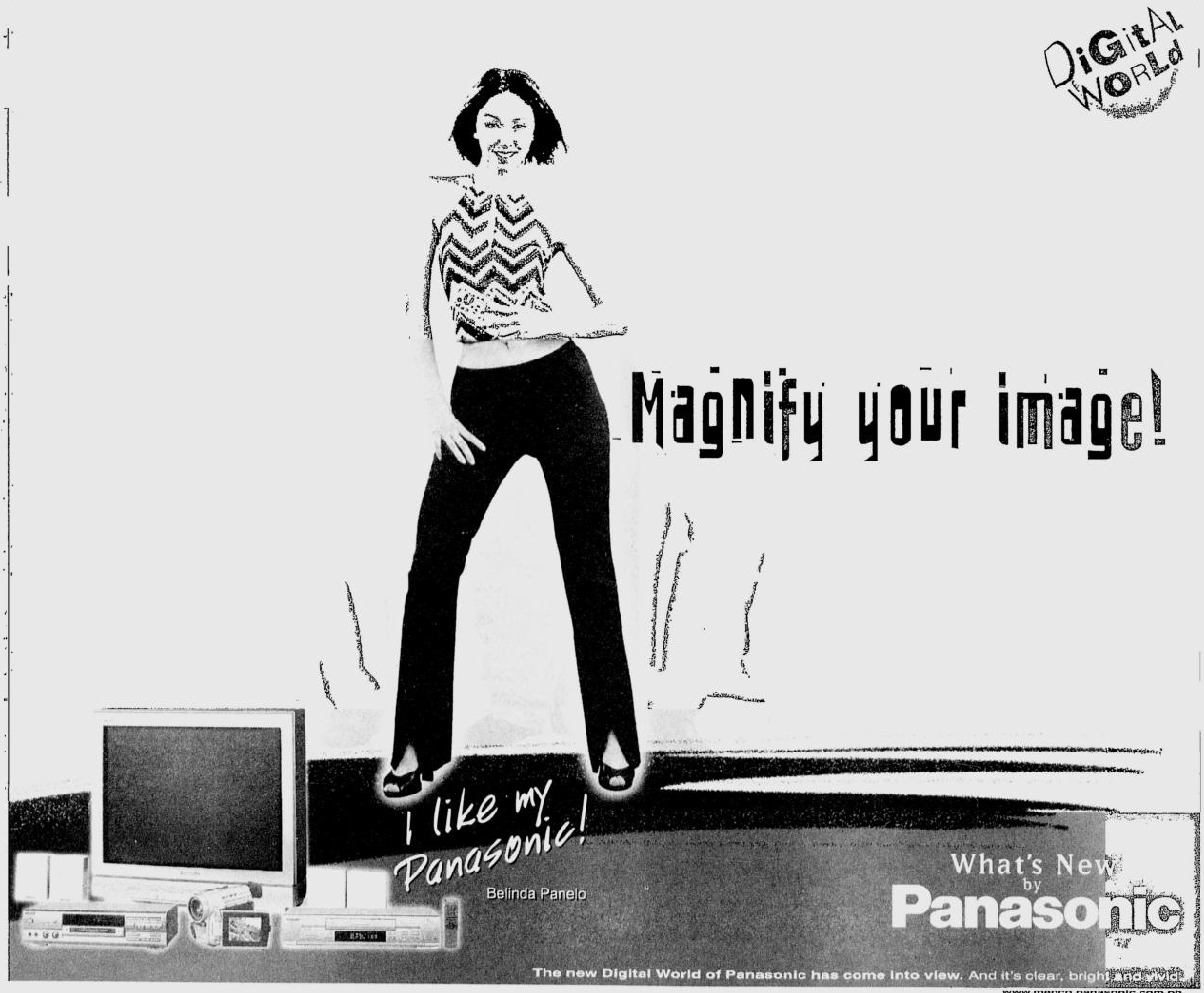

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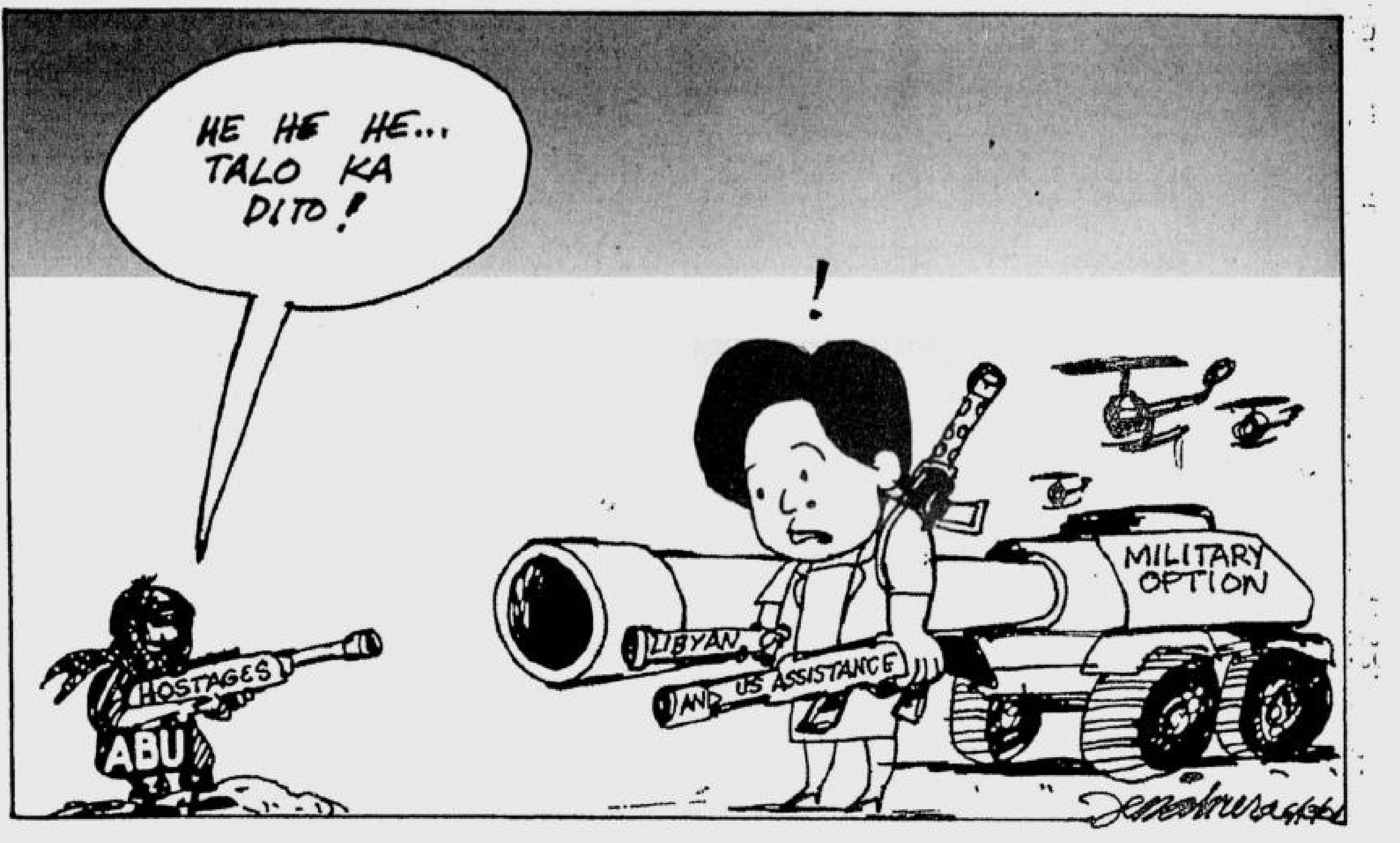

On a string

EDITORIAL

IF the Abu Sayyaf bandits have indeed beheaded one of the three American hostages, it would only confirm that they are "a merciless, ruthless group," President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said yesterday. She was reacting to the announcement made by Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya that they had killed Guillermo Sobero as an Independence Day "gift" to the Philippine government.

But whether Sabaya is telling the truth or playing a cruel mind game, what Ms Macapagal said was nothing new. Every time these bandits have gone on a criminal rampage, they have always managed to shock the public if not by their derring-do, then by their "ghoulishness and viciousness," as she put it.

Six years ago the Abu Sayyaf launched a mid-day raid on the town center of Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur, killing 53 people, razing the public market to the ground and running away with some P7 million taken from several banks. On March 20 last year, the Abu Sayyaf attacked four schools in Basilan and took 53 hostages as it retreated in the face of a government counterattack. A month later, the group kidnapped 21 persons, mostly foreign tourists, from a resort on the Malaysian island of Sipadan. On May 3, when government troops encountered the Basilan kidnappers in the town of Lantawan, the Abu Sayyaf executed four of their hostages. Soldiers found the body of Editha Lumane, 57, a school teacher for 30 years, with her breasts cut off. Fr. Rhoel Gallardo, a Claretian missionary, was apparently tortured before he was shot in the head; his nails had been ripped off from his fingers and toes. The depths of cruelty to which the Abu Sayyaf will sink appear to be unfathomable.

In the current hostage crisis, the Abu Sayyaf has again demonstrated its capacity for unspeakable barbarity. On June 3, as the troops pressed their campaign to free the hostages, the bandits beheaded two security guards they had abducted from Dos Palmas and left their bodies where they could be easily found by pursuing troops.

On the other hand, the Abu Sayyaf never carried out its repeated threats to execute another American hostage, Jeffrey Schilling, until he was rescued in March this year. But that could have been because Schilling is married to the cousin of one of the Abu Sayyaf's leaders.

The only thing certain about the Abu Sayyaf, it seems, is that one can never be certain about what it will do. Its behavior can confound even experts on terrorism or psychologists. So unless Sobero's body is actually found, there is reason to hope that he may be alive.

Still the announcement of Sobero's death, whether premature or not, comes as a big blow to the administration. As if to show to one and all who really has control of the situation, the Abu Sayyaf announced the beheading a day after the administration agreed to let two Malaysian nationals negotiate the release of the hostages, as the bandits demanded. No matter how the administration tried to sugarcoat its decision, everyone knew it had caved in to the bandits and swallowed its tough words.

Earlier Ms Macapagal, mouthing lines better left to her disgraced predecessor Joseph Estrada, vowed to finish off the Abu Sayyaf in a hail of bullets saying, "*Isang bala lang kayo.*" She declared that no ransom would be paid and that the government would never negotiate with kidnappers. Now the administration has dropped its no-negotiation policy and everyone sees millions in ransom money going into the war chest of the Abu Sayyaf. After all, one of the Malaysian negotiators recommended by the Abu Sayyaf is said to have arranged the payment of millions of dollars in ransom for some of the Sipadan hostages last year.

What makes the surrender even more bitter for the Macapagal administration is that it might not have achieved even its limited objective of saving all the American hostages. The bandits had pledged to spare the lives of the Americans if the administration agreed to let the Malaysians do the talking. Now, as Ms Macapagal said, the government knows that the Abu Sayyaf cannot be trusted to keep its word. Worse, the bandit group has shown to one and all that it has the government on a string.

But maybe something good will come out of this yet. The shock of betrayal could rouse the administration from its dream of putting a quick and happy ending to the crisis. In agreeing to designate the Malaysians as official negotiators, the administration appears headed for the same disastrous course as the one taken by the Estrada administration: letting foreigners take over the negotiations and ultimately giving the kidnappers all the money they wanted. There was no happy ending in that one as the present crisis shows. Neither will there be any happy ending if the government follows the same course now. Just as the repetition of the nightmare we are experiencing.

The fireflies are back

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HERE'S good news for nature lovers: the fireflies are back in our park! Since I wrote in this column months ago about fireflies making Christmas trees of selected trees in the park, I have been asked many times by friends, neighbors and strangers about them. Colleagues called me asking for directions to the park; they wanted to see the fireflies, too. Unfortunately, by the time they called, the fireflies were gone. Where they went or what happened to them, I don't know. But now that they're back, I feel it is my obligation to inform those interested. We've seen them flitting and blinking their lights in the park for two nights already before this writing (last Sunday and Monday).

My daughter and I were just starting our evening walk with the dogs when I saw tiny flashing lights among the branches of our neighbor's mango tree: fireflies! I pointed them to my daughter. "There may be more of them in the park," I said.

"Let's go, look" she replied.

We turned back toward the park after getting two flashlights from the house. In the vacant lot beside our house, there were a few lights winking on and off among the grass.

As we turned into the dark park, we immediately saw a few lights flitting beside the stream, among the grass and the trees. They became more numerous as we went deeper into the park. Finally, in the middle of the park, there they were, plenty of them, dancing among the branches of the trees, among the plants and even down in the grass.

Unlike the scenes I described before, however, they were not concentrated around any tree so that that tree looked like a Christmas tree with blinking lights. They were scattered all over, not as many as the stars in the sky, but enough to make you gaze at them in awe, thankful to God that He allowed you to witness this spectacle in the middle of the city. They played no favorites. No species of tree or plant was favored. Where we looked, they were there, not spectacularly numerous, but dancing lights were everywhere.

"It looks like a party for fairies," my daughter said. Indeed, though I've never seen a fairy, but being of a romantic and childlike nature, I could imagine in each winking light a pretty fairy with gauzelike wings and waving a flashing magic wand, flying and swooping and gliding among the leaves in a merry dance to the accompaniment of Strauss' waltzes. The bubbling of the stream made the illusion complete. A few crickets were singing but the frogs that usually hold concerts during the rainy season were not yet born.

We walked through the whole park and the fireflies played fair, no part of the park was forgotten. Everywhere we went, there were lights, except that the big *camachile* tree leaning over the brook did not have as many lights as it had before. The dogs didn't seem interested; they were more interested in marking the trail. But of course we didn't look into their eyes or their minds nor asked them if they saw what we were seeing.

What makes the fireflies come out some times and not at other times? a neighbor asked. I didn't know the answer, but I answered, "Maybe it's seasonal."

I have noticed for years now that fireflies usually come out after a rain. It had rained in the late afternoons of Sunday and Monday. I had written long ago that after a storm passed over the city and downed a number of trees, there was an unusual number of fireflies among the downed trees and the rumpled weeds. Why? Maybe the strong winds disturbed them. Maybe they lost their homes in the trees or grass. Or maybe it was because it was dark because there were no electric lights so we were able to see them. Maybe they were there every night blinking their lights away but we never noticed because their dainty lights were overwhelmed by the bright electric lights. At any rate, almost every time there is a late afternoon or evening rain, we usually see a few fireflies in the backyard or in the vacant lots nearby. Sometimes, one or two would manage to get inside the house and we would turn off all the lights in the house and we watch their lights form arcs in the dark room. They drive the cats crazy.

I hope the fireflies would still be in the park tonight and on the other nights. An entomologist explained that the fireflies come out in big numbers when many eggs hatch at the same time. They die after a few days, but not after laying their own eggs. The flashing lights were to attract mates. So more flashing lights presumably mean more eggs. I don't know how long it takes for the eggs to hatch. The entomologist said the eggs are laid on the ground so he suggests not burning fallen leaves. The firefly eggs may be burned with them. And anyway the Clean Air Act forbids the burning of leaves and other garbage. And leaves make good compost and fertilizer.

In case you want to go to the park to see the fireflies (I hope they're still there when you do), please be careful. It is dark in the park so bring flashlights. I had Japanese-style lamps installed (two times already) in the whole park but vandals from a nearby squatter colony stole the bulbs and electric wires and even destroyed some of the concrete lamps. And anyway, you won't see the flashing lights of the fireflies if the place is bright. So turn off your flashlights when you don't need them.

There are steep inclines along the trail, especially near the entrance, and the footpaths may be slippery because of the rains, so please hold on to the handrails. When going up the Japanese-style bridge, hold tightly to the bridge rails. Strips of steel have been welded on the bridge's floor for traction, but still, it can be slippery when wet. Stay on the concrete footpath; don't wander off in the grass. There are two downed *ipil-ipil* trees across a portion of the footpath; don't stumble over them.

And please don't catch any firefly that may come near you. Leave them be to lay more eggs.

Enjoy yourself.

Coming to our senses

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I AM sure that when I wrote that column, "Sense of country," last Thursday, I did not mean to malign those who have opted to live abroad, temporarily or otherwise. Most of them, particularly the OFWs, are there for the most compelling reasons. I've seen the hordes that crowd the recruiting agencies in some places in Metro Manila, and I can't say I blame them. A better future in this country means little to people who do not have a livable present.

And indeed whatever their motives for going out of the country, many Filipinos abroad have developed a fierce passion for the country. A passion made fiercer by the magic of the Internet. As I realized with particular force during Edsa II, there is a global Filipino community out there, and one that has become very much a part of national affairs by its ability to interact—the "interactive" in the new medium is not entirely exaggerated—with the local community. Edsa II wasn't just won by the "texters," it was won by the "e-mailers," many of whom resided abroad.

You can't come away from reading their letters without getting a sense that love of country is not dead among Filipinos, paradoxically least of all in those who have left the country. I do not know whether it is nostalgia or conscience, homesickness or idealism, but their ache for this country and their desire to do something for it often border on the spiritual. And given their current ability to know and (more importantly) respond nearly instantaneously to what's going on in the country through such powerful channels as the Inquirer Online, they have become a force to reckon with.

But having said this, I still think the attitude or mind-set or reflex action of thinking abroad when things get bad in this country is one of the biggest things that's keeping this country backward. There is a difference between other Asians and Filipinos going, or wanting to go abroad, which is precisely that with us it is an attitude or mind-set or reflex action. It lodges not in the individual consciousness, as a choice, but in the national consciousness, as a collective way out. It has become ingrained in the Filipino's psychology, rich or poor. It is a national obsession. Which afflicts those who have remained in this country more than those who have actually gone abroad.

Henry Ma says in his letter that no stigma should attach to leaving one's country. "At what point does a battered spouse say 'enough' and get out of a relationship?" Good point, but ours seems a different case altogether. The more accurate analogy for us, I should think, is a spouse who has the predisposition to leave from the first day of marriage. Or who at least keeps that option at the back of his mind even during the honeymoon. You have that predisposition, you will not lack for an excuse to leave. The excuse could be weighty—and the kinds of trials this country offers arguably are—but it is often just an excuse nonetheless.

It's a predisposition that produces a couple of other predispositions that defeat progress. The first is the sense—or non-sense—that making the country better is somebody else's business and not your own. That is implicit in the statement, "If things do not get better, I'm going." Or as the letters from Filipinos abroad put it, "If things do not get better, I'm not going back." Though often just letting off steam, it establishes a psychology that reverses John F. Kennedy's famous axiom about not asking yourself what the country can do for you but asking yourself what you can do for the country. At its worst, it suggests that the country in some way owes you something. At its best, it suggests that the country is a gratuity that you can take or leave.

"If things do not get better" implies either that country will somehow right itself or that other people—government, the private sector, civil society—will do it. It does not imply contributing to the cause.

The second attitude, a much better one though still tremendously flawed, is the sense—or non-sense—that if the country does not respond to your initiatives, or good intentions, you have every right to bolt it. That is the more common cry, which we heard from many Edsa II veterans during "Edsa III" and the elections. Their dismay at the seeming stupidity of the *masa*, shown apparently by the *masa*'s violent protests over Erap's arrest and their voting for several Puwersa ng Masa candidates, gave rise to angry expostulations, or resigned sighs, about this country being uneducable, if not downright hopeless. A couple of people I know, sons of very prominent Filipinos, wondered quite seriously if they were not better off attending full-time to their businesses in California.

People who harbor this attitude are not unwilling to help—in fact many of them are very idealistic individuals, which explains the depth of their dismay. But they are not willing to go the extra mile. They are not willing to understand where the masses are coming from, they are willing only to prescribe where the masses ought to be going. Their impatience doesn't just come from a sense of knowing better, it comes from a sense of having the option to give up. There are limits to one's willingness to do something for the country, those limits being defined by the extent to which the country lives up to one's expectations. The country "doesn't shape up" despite one's efforts to do so, one is gone—or doesn't come back.

The attitude carries with it no willingness to understand why things are not shaping up and what else can be done to make the country shape up. It carries no sense of desperation, no sense of imperative, no sense of having no choice but to keep trying to make things work. It carries with it no sense of failure being an unacceptable option. To go back to the analogy earlier, it's like a husband telling his wife that he did his best to make things better for her, he exerted himself to improve her condition, if not her mind. But, alas, she would not listen and learn. Alas, she would not pass muster. Alas, she would not come up to his level. So he's leaving her.

I am not saying that people who stay in this country will naturally try to make this country better. I am saying that people who vow to stay in this country with the passion of a newlywed, or with the desperation of a drowning man clinging to a raft, will try to make this country better. It does make a lot of difference when, as an attitude, a mind-set, or reflex action, you think Philippines for better or worse. Then you do not stop trying to fathom its perplexities, or even its perversities.

Then you do not stop trying to make it work.

The activist, Davide Court

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

BY VIRTUE of President Estrada's Proclamation No. 322 issued on June 6, 2000, the period June 11, 2000 to June 11, 2001 was declared as the Centenary of the Supreme Court. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo proclaimed June 4-11 as Judiciary Week. These two proclamations were issued to honor the Supreme Court, affirm its independence and commemorate its founding on June 11, 1901, when the Second Philippine Commission enacted the Judiciary Law of 1901, which vested judicial powers on the Supreme Court and lower courts.

The other day, on the eve of the 103rd anniversary of Philippine independence, the Supreme Court celebrated its centenary with a dinner at Manila Hotel, whose guest of honor was President Macapagal, and which was graced by the presence of chief justices of Asian supreme courts. The chief justices were those from Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, India, Israel and Thailand.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., had earlier delivered a lecture titled "The Judiciary at the Threshold of the New Millennium." The theme of this centenary is "Katarungan at Bayan Magpakailanman (Justice and Nation Forever)." When Davide assumed the position of Chief Justice on Nov. 30, 1998, ironically following his appointment to the post by deposed President Estrada, he outlined his goals in a document called "Davide Watch: Leading the Philippine Judiciary and the Legal Profession Towards the New Millennium." He made clear that he intended to employ "a hands-on policy in all aspects of court case management, including a constant exchange of ideas, not only with the members of the judiciary but with all who hold a stake in justice and good government." These aspects include administrative reforms to strengthen the independence and integrity of the judicial system and to reduce the backlog of cases.

Although Davide modestly skipped reference to the Court's critical role in legitimizing the Macapagal administration after People Power II, his Court has lived up to its "hands-on" role which, if I am allowed to interpret, means an activist role. The Davide Court is nothing if not an activist court that sought to provide political stability in the otherwise turbulent transition from President Estrada to President Macapagal.

The wider context of the Court's centenary was the 103rd anniversary of the republic. When President Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed independence on June 12, 1898, the Philippine state was born from the dying body of the Spanish colonial empire. But the embryonic state no sooner saw the light of day than it was gobbled up by another new and predatory empire—the expansionist America seeking space in the Pacific. The threats to the republic at the time were external.

More than a hundred years later, the threats facing the republic are internal. The threats that challenge the authority and even autonomy of the Philippine state come from internal rebellions (those of the Abu Sayyaf, Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the communist guerrillas), political groups who up until now have refused to recognize the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration, and the discontented urban poor vulnerable to manipulation for revolt. To use a metaphor, the Philippine state is a sum threatened by its parts.

In the crisis of the Estrada presidency, most of the state institutions and apparatus were undermined by a culture of politics that was driven by personal impulses of the presidency and poisoned by corruption. Among the co-equal branches of government, only the Supreme Court had retained its integrity and was held in high public esteem. During the impeachment trial of Estrada, the Supreme Court and the Chief Justice topped trust ratings of public opinion polls.

It was the impartial, fair and decisive handling of the trial by Davide that maintained public confidence in the trial until the Senate voted 11-10 to bloc admission of evidence, leading to the failure of the impeachment process. After the people's faith in the impeachment process was shattered, they took to the streets to continue the demand for Estrada's resignation, and the only institution that had the integrity to act as the arbiter in the crisis was the Supreme Court.

True, the withdrawal by the Armed Forces of the Philippines of its support of the Estrada administration crippled the regime. But in the critical two hours between 10 a.m. and 12 noon of Jan. 20, when there was a power vacuum, it was the decision of the Supreme Court to swear-in Vice President Macapagal as president—not as acting president—that filled the vacuum and averted civil disorder. While legal questions arose about the decision of Davide to swear-in the Vice President, it was the court that held the government together and it was the rallying point of the collective presence of military leaders, the diplomatic corps, legislative leaders that delivered the resounding message that the new administration was legal and constitutional.

While it is true that constitutional ambiguities flowed from the question of whether Estrada had resigned the presidency, the representatives of key state institutions accepted the legitimating decisions of the Supreme Court. In the history of the Court, its decisions had always been accepted but in the December-January crisis of transition, Estrada and some of his allies have refused to accept the decision and have broken the unwritten rule that losers should accept adverse decisions with grace. The Court sustained its decision according legitimacy to the new administration in a series of three 13-0 decisions throwing out legal challenges.

The only state institution that stood between chaos and anarchy when the question of leadership change went to the streets for decision was the Supreme Court. It was the only institution that had the integrity and the respect of the people to make authoritative decisions on legitimacy. The Court was the institutional pillar that absorbed the shocks of the January 2001 transfer of power.

Medicine mines metals to heal and to cure

FEATURE

Sharman Esarey

LONDON—The basic building block of life is carbon. Or is it? If a living organism gets a disease, the answer is organic. Isn't it?

The Oxford dictionary says life is the condition which distinguishes active animals and plants from inorganic, or non-carbon, matter, but medical researchers differ.

"Life is not just organic. For a chemist, organic chemistry is the chemistry of carbon—but life is certainly inorganic as well as organic," said Dr. Peter Sadler, professor of chemistry at the University of Edinburgh.

"In fact there are about 23 elements other than carbon needed for daily life. Life depends on inorganic elements."

And here a growing number of scientists envision a potential treasure chest in the metals neatly lined up in the Periodic

Table of Elements.

These metals might help unlock treatments or tests for conditions ranging from cancer to arthritis to Alzheimer's disease, heart attacks and microbial or viral infections.

Most drugs on the market make use of different combinations of just a half-dozen or so of the 110 elements in the table.

"Why are there so few drugs on the market that do include metal ions? We have carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, and sulphur, but not very many elements of the Periodic Table," said Dr. Peter Preusch, a scientist and program director at the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) which have just launched a grants offer to stimulate such research.

"Are we missing opportunities?" said Preusch, of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

Though doctors have used metals in therapy through the ages and some traditional healing systems also employ them, research in the field really took off in the last two decades after a fortuitous discovery and two runaway successes.

"The use of metals in medicine goes back to antiquity, but mercury and arsenic and such were used, most of which were toxic," said Dr. Michael Abrams, president and CEO of AnorMED, a Canadian company which researches and licenses metal-based therapeutic products.

"The reason there is a lot more interest in the last 10 to 20 years is that metals can let you do things that conventional organics cannot...They can accomplish medical tasks that can't be accomplished by conventional organics."

The two dazzling successes that have researchers' attention are a drug and a diagnostic tool.

The metal gadolinium is the contrast agent that makes Magnetic Resonance Imaging, a diagnostic tool that has revolutionized imaging, work. The magnetic property of the metal gives you more information more quickly and has fewer side effects than prior technologies.

Several decades ago, Michigan State University researcher Barnett Rosenberg was testing the effects of an electric field on a strain of bacteria—when it inexplicably stopped dividing.

After months of study, he traced the phenomenon to a platinum electrode created by the electrolysis, and thus was born an $800-million market and the world's largest selling anti-cancer drug.

"There are a couple very successful metal-containing drugs on the market: Cisplatin and Generation 2 carboplatin that have clearly been successful in a disease niche. The question is, is that a fluke?" said Preusch.

"The National Cancer Institute has studied a large number of compounds for their potential activity against cancer or the HIV virus. They found that the frequency of success among metal-containing compounds was similar to that of organic compounds," Preusch added.

Some researchers are looking at those metals that naturally occur in the body and their metabolism—how they are absorbed and released, where they are found in the cell and what varying functions they fulfil such as regulating oxygen levels or controlling major biochemical pathways within enzymes.

Others are examining metals not needed for daily life, such as platinum, to see what they might do for us, said Edinburgh's Sadler.

Still others are looking at illnesses, like malaria, which is difficult to treat, to see what metals might offer. Some are researching ways to block iron or zinc's pathway into bacteria.

"There are pathogenic bacteria that cause meningitis. (Bacteria) must get iron. If they don't get iron they die. They are clever at finding iron and getting it away from us," he said.

Still others are looking at radioactive metals for diagnostic equipment.

For AnorMED there are a number of interesting quirks to metals that give them potential.

Metals have diverse, three-dimensional structures that provide novel shapes for fitting into biological targets, which are not easily duplicated by simple organic molecules.

This is especially true of the platinum cancer-fighting drugs, which AnorMED has helped develop. It has licensed its ZDO473, a new platinum-based anti-cancer agent designed to overcome platinum drug resistance, to Anglo-Swedish drug group AstraZeneca.

Metal ions also tend to attach themselves to biological molecules, which can be harnesses to scavenge and remove unwanted compounds from the body.

Using this ability, AnorMED has developed the drug Foznol, which it has licensed to UK-based Shire Pharmaceutical. Foznol is used to help control phosphate levels in end-stage kidney disease patients.

Researchers also note that metal compounds, unlike most common organic molecules, are capable of losing or adding electrons, so-called oxidation and reduction reactions. In diseased environments, these reactions could help inspire new drugs.

But scientists say much more basic research must be done on the metals to see how they behave.

"The more we understand about the nuts and bolts of how it (the interactions of metals with living cells) works, the more opportunities might present themselves," Preusch said, adding that interest in the field was growing.

"In response to the NIH program announcement, I have received a reasonable number of inquiries. I expect we will receive over 100 applications over the next three years. The amount of money we will invest in the area will depend on the number of applications that are received and how well they do in the peer review," he said.

Edinburgh's Sadler sees a bright future for the field.

"People are looking for dazzling treatments (but that doesn't happen overnight). There is a need for more research. Slowly, slowly this will make a big contribution," he said.

Reuters

Remembering beyond June 12, 1898

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

YESTERDAY, the 103rd anniversary of the declaration of Philippine independence came and went as usual. Flag-raising at the Luneta early in the morning, *vin d'honneur* at Malacañang, the President's Independence Day speech at the Luneta in the afternoon. For all of us, it was a welcome holiday before classes all around the country begin and cause traffic in Metro Manila. This year, the celebrations were simple—only P10-million worth—and no frills. There were no flags on the lampposts along Roxas Boulevard. In my childhood I knew that Independence Day was near because vendors hawked Philippine flags on the streets. People used to attach flags on their cars and fly flags outside their homes—today, Independence Day is just another excuse to stay indoors or go to the mall.

I was surprised that a few people actually asked me over the weekend whether there was something worth celebrating today—the peso is down, there is trouble in the South, there is controversy over the 13th senatorial slot, etc. One person asked if we were truly free and independent. I guess 1898 and 1998 seem so faded in our memory now. If we remember the 1998 centennial at all, we hear sharp talk about the failed Expo. Memory is so fickle that we hardly remember feeling good as a nation, for one fleeting moment, on June 12, 1998. We have bad news aplenty and relish it.

When you look at our history textbooks, the defining point in our history is the Philippine Revolution of 1896 and the establishment of the first Philippine Republic in 1898-1899. Much of that history is confined to Luzon, and we see this in our flag where the eight rays of the sun remind us of the eight Luzon provinces put under martial law by the Spaniards to contain the revolt. If there was anything that the 1998 centennial gave us, it was renewed research and scholarship from areas outside Manila and Luzon, providing us with a clearer, fuller picture of the Philippines in 1898-1899. What was the revolutionary period like in Cagayan or Sulu or Batanes? All these have to be woven into one national history. It is possible, but far from reality as yet.

The emphasis on the Philippine revolution not only leaves out much history of the period from sources outside Manila, but makes us forget a long tradition of rebellion and compromise since Magellan and his overconfident men were massacred by shirtless warriors of Mactan in 1521. Since the Abu Sayyaf raid on Dos Palmas, I have been reading up on "piracy" in Southern Philippines before 1900 and see too many parallels. Of course, the Spanish sources paint a very negative picture of their enemies, but were these proud people from Mindanao really "pirates" or were they fighting for the preservation of their land, culture and religion? Were they bandits or patriots? Historians can change the way in which the sources are read. For example, Spanish sources in 1898 or the American sources from 1899-1901 show Aguinaldo and others we revere as heroes and patriots today described in the worst possible light. Macario Sakay has been on this kind of a pendulum—bandit yesterday, hero today in just the same way that Gregorio Honasan was villain in the Marcos military, hero in the 1986 People Power, villain in a series of coups against the Aquino administration and hero when voted into the Senate. Where will he end up? Again, that is left to history and historians.

The way history is written and interpreted changes the whole way we look at our past and our present. In 1637, Sultan Kudarat was defeated by the Spaniards in the battle of Lamitan. In 1638, the Spaniards took Jolo and in 1639, Lanao. Following these defeats the Maranao datus decided to make peace and Sultan Kudarat was said to have given a speech, a fragment of which was recorded by the Jesuit historian Combes in his 1667 book "Historia de las Islas de Mindanao, Jolo y sus adyacentes." The text here quoted is from Gregorio Zaide's "Documentary Sources of Philippine History":

"What have you done? Do you know what would happen to you if you submit? A wearisome slavery under the Spaniards! Turn your eyes to the subject nations and see the misery to which such glorious nations have been reduced to. Look at the Tagalogs and Bisayans! Are you better than they? Or do you think that the Spaniards regard you as better than they? Have you seen how the Spaniards trample them under their feet? Don't you see every day how they are compelled to toil rigorously at the oars and in the factories? Can you tolerate a mere *mesticillo* to beat you and seize the fruits of your labor? Allow yourselves to be subjects now, and tomorrow you will be rowing, and I, at least, will be the pilot which is the greatest favor they give to a chief. Do not be deceived by their honeyed words. All their promises facilitate their deception which, little by little, enable them to control all things. Think of what happened to minor promises given to the chiefs of other nations which were seemingly honored but later repudiated when [the Spaniards] became their masters. See now what is being done to these chiefs; they are being led by the lash."

Independence Day should help us remember past 1898 and see the times when Filipinos were proud and free.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Who's to blame for Noli de Castro?

COMMENTARY

Leandro V. Coronel

ANYONE who can convince more than 16 million people to vote for him can't be all bad. Noli de Castro got that many votes but somehow some people can't seem to accept him as a senator of the realm.

Topping the last senatorial elections gives De Castro a certain cachet. Still, people talk about his election as some kind of disaster. And this anti-De Castro sentiment isn't limited to media commentators. People on the street say the same thing.

The common answer to who's to blame for De Castro is: the people, those more than 16 million voters who wrote his name on top of everyone else's. Will our voters never mature? we lament exasperatedly. When will they stop voting for people like Erap, Romeo Jalosjos and De Castro? we ask.

It's so convenient to blame the people, especially the poor and ignorant, for our sad fate of having unqualified people in government. The people are our reliable scapegoats. Whenever disaster strikes, like when we end up with an Erap in Malacañang, we blame "the people."

But can we really take "the people" to task for the scoundrels and do-nothings in government and stop there? Why do "the people" vote for the Eraps and the Nolis?

First, because the commentators are right, they don't know any better. Name-recall is the game. Who can forget De Castro's name when he was in our living rooms every evening? The same thing happened to Loren Legarda-Leviste who was a television journalist before topping the previous senatorial elections. Thank goodness, Leviste has turned out to be a conscientious lawmaker.

Second, people *can* identify with De Castro, they see him as one of them. He is, after all, in people's homes every night, virtually a member of the family. Just as people saw Estrada as one of them, people also could relate to De Castro. So it was an easy thing to vote for him, he was family.

There's a third and larger aspect to why people elevate politicians like Erap, Jalosjos and a few undeserving others to positions of power. Poverty separates a large number of people from mainstream society. Poverty is a yawning chasm that many of us don't even know exists. The large numbers of people that massed at Edsa III crawled and clambered out of that abyss of poverty.

And when people are poor, what is the first item that gets dropped from the family budget? The children's education. Poor people must think first where to get their next meal, where to get the clothes to put on their backs, the roof to put over their heads. Sending the children to school is way down the list. Better to find a livelihood in the streets selling flower garlands or begging or scavenging in the city dump.

And when people are illiterate, can you expect them to make enlightened choices in the elections?

It's easy to blame the poor for our nation's maladies including the quality of the politicians. But the solution isn't simply in telling them to vote wisely. The solution is not in herding them into a seminar and "educating" than about voting intelligently. Why do you think the voter-education projects launched so far have not given us better politicians?

The long-term solution is in getting them out of poverty so they can have fever problems to worry about and have money to send the children to school. Then, they can grow up to be responsible citizens and better voters.

Keith Richburg, at the time the Washington Post's Manila correspondent, likened the poverty gap in the Philippines to that of South Africa. That was an indictment of the Philippine government as ineffective, even callous, in its responsibility to improve the lives of its poorest citizens.

Richburg saw the walled "villages" called Forbes Park and Dasmariñas in Makati City and was quickly reminded of the colonial structure of pre-Mandela South Africa. Then, white administrators and bureaucrats ran the government and white ranchers and homesteaders ruled the outback. The original South Africans lived in hovels unfit for the pampered dogs and other pets of the wealthy whites.

And that's where *we* are even today. The many who are poor surround the few who are rich. And yet, for all the intents and purposes of the ruling establishment, these millions and millions of miserable Filipinos don't exist. And even when there's an acknowledgement that they do exist, the well-to-do among us couldn't care less about the poor's future.

(Actually, Richburg could have been talking about the gap between his fellow blacks in the United States and their white counterparts. The American blacks' situation is similar to that of poor Filipinos: they were intentionally kept illiterate and ignorant by the ruling class, the white slavemasters in America's case and the Spaniards and their Filipino successor hacenderos and businessmen in our case.)

As long as the socio-economic structure in the Philippines remains so lopsided, large masses of Filipinos will continue to go to the polls uninformed. As long as vast numbers of us are poor, Philippine elections shall continue to be an exercise similar to trying to see in the dark, let alone trying to write in it.

But let's not just blame the teeming masses for their bad electoral choices. Let's instead blame the government for not properly educating all Filipinos. Let's blame the ruling establishment for not lifting a finger in improving the lives of the poor so they can have more options in life, like being able to send themselves and their children to school. Let's blame our system, not only of education, but the way our culture and institutions maintain a status quo of prevalent ignorance.

There were some bad choices in the last elections. But we can't just blame "the people" and leave it at that. They're not the only ones to blame.

Leandro V. Coronel is a writer formerly based in the United States.

THEY SAID

Fit for the job

"You cannot laugh off his talent, his competence and his capability."

—Senator-elect Ralph Recto, endorsing Senator-elect Joker Arroyo for the Senate presidency

Surviving the worst

"Critics may find fault with the individual performance of certain senators. But on the whole, I think that the Senate as an institution survived the worst phase of its work in the recently aborted impeachment trial."

—Senate President Aquilino Pimentel, assessing the performance of the Senate

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LETTERS

Debt relief, a necessary start

SINCE last year our top government officials have received explicit suggestions (in several position papers) to tap the International Debt Relief as a source of funds to jump-start our nation's poverty alleviation program.

Apparently the very idea itself has been rejected, because some very influential economic advisers have convinced our President that the Philippines is not qualified. In short, they all agree that our nation is not poor enough. And yet our biggest utility companies and commercial banks have invariably received tremendous financial assistance from the government or the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Consider however that the latest World Bank reports put the Philippines near the top of the list of the poorest countries in the world, with 40 percent living below the poverty line. Incidentally, our government's definition of poverty, obviously for window-dressing purposes, are those families who earn less than P12,000 to P13,000 on the national average, per year per family, or about P1,000 per month per family. Only such families can be considered poor enough to warrant official concern!

Be that as it may, debt relief for poor nations entrapped in ever-deepening debt and poverty is no longer a seemingly radical idea. In Chapter 4 of the UNDP Poverty Report 2000, seven "heavily indebted poor countries" or HIPCs have already received or will soon receive about $3 billion in debt relief, (not just a debt moratorium but outright reduction) from the World Bank-International Monetary Fund and its other multilateral agencies.

In fact, our top government officials are apparently more strict with ourselves when they dismiss debt relief as a practical source of funds because in this very same UN report, it says under the heading, "Changing Policies at the IMF and World Bank": "To ensure a strong link between debt relief and poverty reduction, the Enhanced HIPC Initiative seeks to make relief an integral part of broader efforts to implement outcome-oriented poverty reduction strategies."

Our top government officials' excuses for their total indifference to debt-relief become even more mind-boggling considering that the Paris Club members, the world's richest and more lenient creditor countries such as the United States, Japan and Germany to whom the Philippines owes substantial bilateral debt, have also already formally pledged to Pope John Paul II since last year, to use debt relief the same way the multilateral agencies are already doing.

God forbid that in this already benighted land of ours, our nation's families, 40 percent of whom earn less than the government's incredibly unrealistic P12,000 per family per annum poverty line, will become so desperate and enraged as to follow another demagogue Pied Piper's call, to storm the houses and enclaves of our elected and appointed government and finance officials, who obstinately insist on their elitist economic theories, false pride and blindness to reality.

Would that these people, most of whom publicly declare themselves as sincere Catholics or Christians, will soon realize that if the oft-repeated warning of our Lord in Scriptures (Matthew 25) which explicitly damns for eternity, those who merely fail to recognize Him among the poor and thus have refused Him a piece of bread or glass of water, theirs will be an eternal fate worse than that of the rich man Dives. The latter ignored only one poor beggar, Lazarus, while their obstinacy and blindness as government leaders, directly prevent meager rice, bread, clean water and clothes from being distributed to millions of the poorest and least of their brothers and sisters.—**EDUARDO B. OLAGUER, Aurora Milestone Bldg., 1045 Aurora Blvd., Quezon City**

Tempest at the NCCA

THE ARTICLE on the National Commission for Culture and the Arts by Lito B. Zulueta (PDI, 6/11/01) reveals an interesting sidelight on the attempt of former Sen. Leticia Ramos-Shahani to wrest control of the cultural agency via a back-door route.

It is a good thing that Zulueta has touched on the major points that could provide a backdrop to a new story that the INQUIRER can easily handle. As a reader of your paper, I'd like to know more about the upcoming showdown between Shahani and the present NCCA chair, Jaime Laya, at the Subcommission on Cultural Heritage.

The unfolding drama that started with an open letter last February urging the President to appoint Shahani as chair of the NCCA and the subsequent resignation of Irene Amores as head of the Committee on Libraries to give way to Shahani make me determined to "sprint" to my dealer for the next copy of the INQUIRER to read about the NCCA development.

Of course I would also like to know the sidebar to the denial of National Artist Nick Joaquin on the signing of the Shahani endorsement letter as well as the insertion of a "culturally insensitive" phrase to the letter signed by National Artist Napoleon Abueva, Leonor Orosa Goquingco and Jose Maceda.

Without the article, I would not have learned about the fact that "divisive politics has again reared its ugly head" in an entirely different arena: culture and the arts. Thanks to Mr. Zulueta for bringing us the latest news on the NCCA and the interesting insight on the way the implementing rules of the NCCA laws are being bent.—**LITO U. GAGNI, hugagni@yahoo.com**

Collegian solicitations

THIS refers to the article "Cash-strapped Collegian seeks donations, but not from Miriam" by Norman Bordadora and published in your paper last May 20.

The thrust of the article was that the staff of the University of the Philippines' Philippine Collegian would refuse to accept any donation from Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago if ever she decided to give the already cash-strapped newspaper any financial assistance. It stated that Collegian editor Duke Bajenting was acting out of *delicadeza* since the Collegian Organizing Committee had earlier decided to bar the senator from attending the alumni homecoming of the student newspaper she used to edit during her college days.

I would like to refresh Bajenting's short memory. Last Feb. 5 our office received a solicitation letter from the Philippine Collegian. Bajenting even noted the letter signed by business managers James Jonas and Arnel Talisayon. The letter said: "We therefore appeal to your sense of generosity to help us in our endeavors. We welcome any contribution that you can offer to assist us in our operations. We will publish your name on the pages of our paper as a form of gratitude. Any amount will go a long way in helping our publication."

It is unfair for the staff of the Philippine Collegian to seek publicity at the expense of the senator. In 1999, Santiago allotted P5 million from her countrywide development fund for the construction of the Social Science Auditorium at the UP Los Baños. She also opposed the privatization of UP and has consistently opposed budget cuts for the prestigious state university. Every year, when the national budget is discussed at the Senate, she always demands that the budget for the UP System be increased, or at the very least, be retained.

Bajenting's statements were done with malicious intent, to put Santiago in a bad light. This does not speak well of the Collegian as an institution. I am an alumna of UP and I am sure there are many other alumni who do not like the actuations of the Collegian editors, spreading ill-will and hatred against illustrious alumni who do not share their political beliefs. Certainly, it runs counter to the ideals of free speech which the state university is known for.—**FLOR L. OFILADA, chief of staff, Office of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, 4th Floor, Narsan Bldg., 3 West Fourth St., West Triangle, Quezon City**

Gullas denies fraud charges

PLEASE allow me to react to Belinda Olivares-Cunanan's column last May 29 about the alleged appointment of college teachers from the University of the Visayas as canvassers and members of the board of election in Talisay City, Cebu.

There's absolutely no truth to that report. Nap Rama Jr. even won in Talisay against my brother, now Representative-elect Jose "Dodong" Gullas, although I myself won as Talisay's first city mayor.

There was a report, however, that in the town of Minglanilla where the UV has a satellite school, three UV teachers were supposedly appointed as members of the board of election, but upon learning about it, I immediately summoned the teachers and asked them to decline the appointment, which they did.

As to the alleged series of brownouts, we provided generators in the areas that experienced brownouts because we feared that our leads might vanish.

In my 31 years of involvement in politics, our family name has never been involved in any electoral fraud. I have guarded our name like I guard my own life. I will not allow our name to be besmirched by allegations of electoral fraud. Visit our place and the people will tell you so. No, we will not throw *delicadeza* to the wind and violate election laws.—**REP. EDUARDO B. GULLAS, First District, Cebu City**

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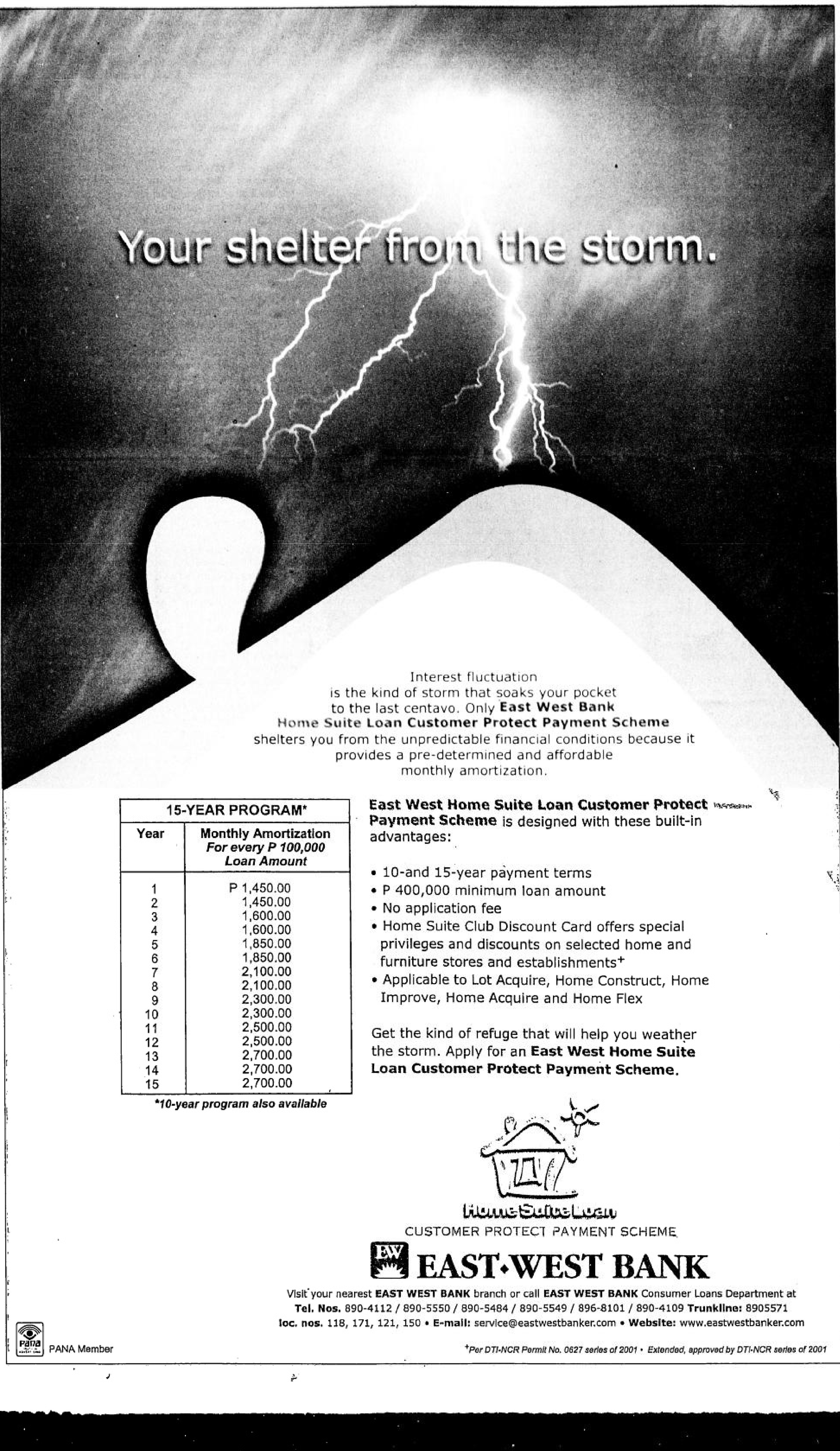
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US PRESIDENT George W. Bush waves next to his wife Laura as he arrives in Madrid at the start of his first-ever visit to Europe June 12. Bush will try to calm European anger over his rejection of the Kyoto agreement on global warming at his first EU-US summit later this week. REUTERS

Bush starts 5-day tour of a skeptical Europe

MADRID—US President George W. Bush arrived in Madrid yesterday, the first stop on a European tour aimed at shoring up relations bruised by differences over missile defense plans, the environment and the death penalty.

"The Europeans are going to find that they've got a trustworthy friend in the Bush administration, one that will stay steady and true," the president told several Europe-based newspapers on the eve of his trip.

But in a forewarning of what may be awaiting Bush in Europe, thousands of demonstrators in Madrid staged protests throughout the weekend against his rejection of the Kyoto protocol, aimed at tackling global warming.

They carried banners bearing slogans such as "No to Bush" and "Stop Bush, Save the Climate."

Further protests were expected to greet Bush throughout his journey, which includes visits to Brussels for a Nato summit and to Gothenburg, Sweden, for meetings with EU leaders, before moving on to Warsaw and finally the Slovenian capital Ljubljana to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin.

After arriving in the Spanish capital, Bush was to head immediately to the royal palace to meet King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia, before having lunch and official talks with Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar.

The five-day trip would allow Bush to meet most of Europe's political heavy-hitters, a tough test during a period of what may be the widest rift in trans-Atlantic relations since the early 1980s.

"I got elected based upon issues that I thought were important for the US," he said during the interview. "That doesn't mean I'm not willing to discuss issues with our European friends and we'll do so."

Popular protests will only provide more frustrations for the US leader, and threaten to overshadow the entire trip.

The Council of Europe set the tone for demonstrations against Bush's human rights record, condemning as "sad, pathetic and wrong" the execution on Monday of Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh and calling on the United States to outlaw the death penalty.

In a move that has angered Europeans, Bush insisted the execution was "not vengeance, but justice." Human rights group Amnesty International took the opposite view, describing it as a triumph of vengeance over justice. *AFP*

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Japan stands by Kyoto pact, hits US offer

TOKYO—Japan yesterday stood firm behind the Kyoto Protocol on climate change despite a new US proposal for a "science-based response" to deal with global warming.

Japanese Environment Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi said she was concerned by Bush's description of the 1997 Kyoto treaty, which holds 38 industrialized countries accountable for reducing greenhouse gas emissions thought to be heating up the planet, as "fatally flawed."

"There is no change in Japan's policy that it will do its best to ratify the Kyoto Protocol in 2002," Kawaguchi said in a statement.

"We have repeatedly said that it is extremely important that the United States—which is responsible for a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions in the world—participates in the Kyoto Protocol in order to ensure the effectiveness of strategies to deal with global warming," the statement said.

She was responding to US President George W. Bush's proposal Monday to replace the Kyoto Protocol with a research-based initiative.

Nations should work together to address global warming, Bush had said, but argued that the "fatally flawed" and "unrealistic" Kyoto Protocol was not the best way to do it.

Bush insisted the United States was committed to working with its allies "to develop an effective and science-based response" to global warming.

A cabinet-level working group on global warming had been examining the issue and recommended "advancing technology to monitor and reduce greenhouse gases and creating partnerships within our hemisphere and beyond to monitor and measure and mitigate emissions."

This included developing cleaner, more efficient ways to generate and transmit electricity and supporting the development of fuel-efficient vehicles and cleaner fuels, he said.

Kawaguchi said she appreciated the US moves to hold discussions on the matter, but said the overall plan was vague. *AFP*

Israel accepts US truce plan

JERUSALEM—Israel has given its backing to a plan by US CIA chief George Tenet for a ceasefire with the Palestinians, a spokesperson for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said yesterday.

"We accepted the Tenet proposal for a complete and unconditional ceasefire," Raanan Gissin said, without elaborating further.

Israeli radio reported that Tenet had given Israel and the Palestinians a midday deadline for a response to his proposals for a ceasefire agreement which is based on recommendations in the Mitchell committee report.

This could not be immediately confirmed.

Tenet met security chiefs from the two sides on Monday night with no apparent signs of progress in reaching an agreement.

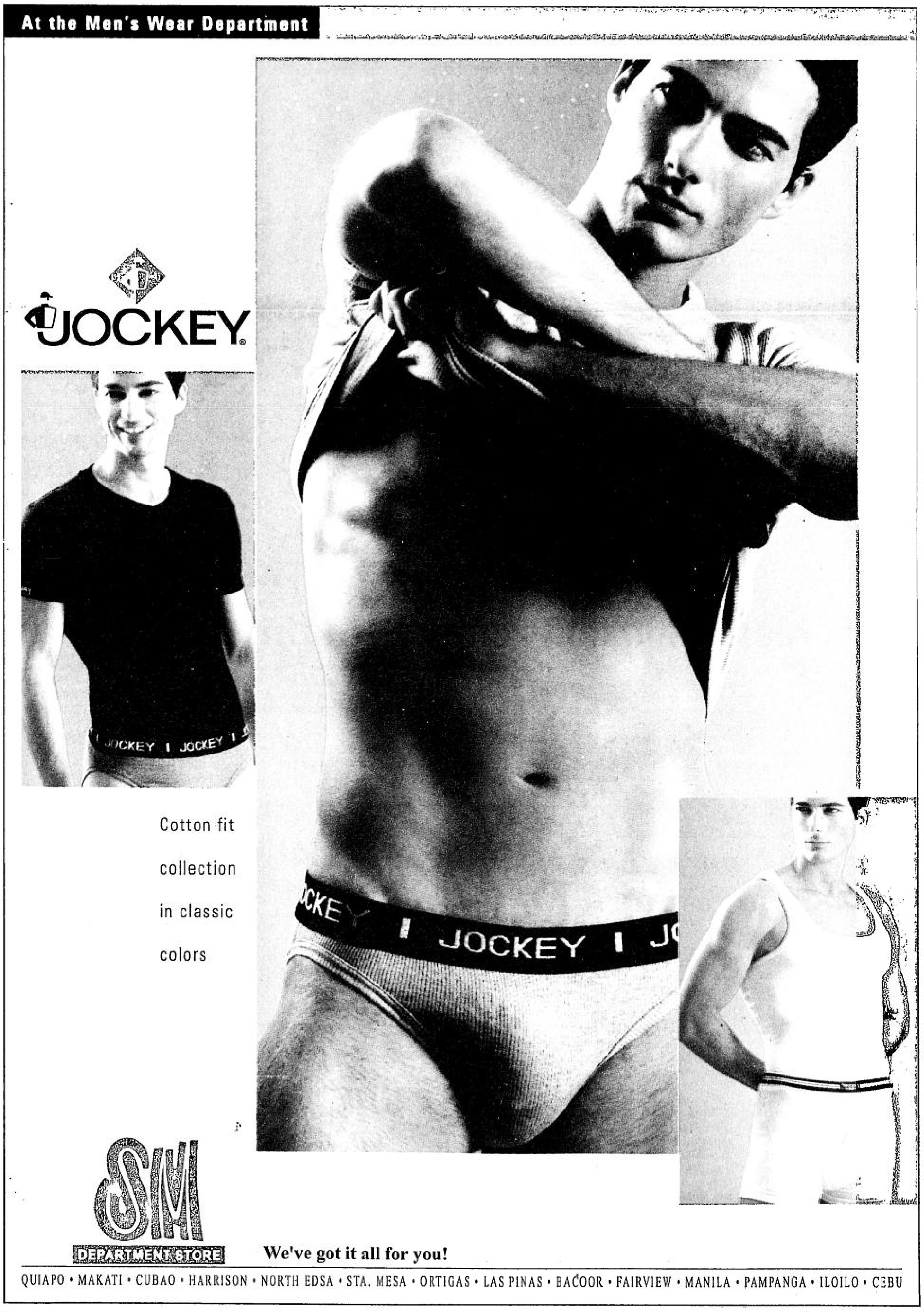
"We are speaking about fundamental differences," West Bank preventative security chief Jibril Rajoub told Voice of Palestine radio.

Tenet is proposing a six-week cooling-off period to be followed by implementation of confidence-building measures called for by the US-led Mitchell committee on the violence.

The committee last month called for an immediate ceasefire, an Israeli freeze on settlement building and full Palestinian efforts to prevent "terrorism" in order to move back to the negotiating table.

Israel's deputy defense minister Dalia Rabin-Pelossof said that Monday's meeting "does not raise any great hopes" and that her expectations of a breakthrough were "very low."

Rabin-Pelossof warned that that if Tenet left the region without any progress having been made, she feared "a serious escalation" of the fighting that has already cost the lives of more than 600 people, most of them Palestinians. *AFP*



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Nepal returns to work 2 weeks after massacre

KATMANDU—Businesses and government offices opened yesterday after a long break to mourn the shooting deaths of the family of the king and queen, whose portraits still adorn the walls in many buildings.

King Birendra, Queen Aiswarya and their relatives were gunned down June 1 at their palace in Katmandu, and a witness and relatives of survivors said Crown Prince Dipendra was responsible. The prince then fatally shot himself, according to those accounts.

Many Nepalese disapprove of new King Gyanendra, Birendra's younger brother, because he lacks the charisma of the slain monarch and is even suspected by some of involvement in the crime. In 1990, Birendra won acclaim for ceding power and overseeing the introduction of a constitutional democracy.

"As long as I can remember, the pictures of King Birendra and Queen Aiswarya have remained not just on the walls of our offices, but also in our hearts," said Kishore Sapkota, a government worker. "I don't think we will ever be able to remove that."

Most Nepalese have the picture of the king, who some revere as the reincarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu, in their homes and at offices. Government offices will eventually replace pictures of Birendra with those of Gyanendra.

Since the royal massacre, people have swamped the stores to buy portraits of the slain royal family.

"More and more people are buying portraits of King Birendra and are putting them up in their homes. I don't even have a single picture of the new king and there have only been a handful people who have asked for one," said Mina Chetri, a vendor in a square near the site where Gyanendra was declared king last week amid tight security.

Gyanendra granted palace-appointed investigators of the deaths of 10 royals a four-day extension on the report originally due Sunday.

Discussing royal affairs is taboo in this tiny Himalayan nation, and even Gyanendra found himself breaking protocol by ordering the probe into the palace killings.

Many Nepalese are unable to accept that Dipendra would kill his parents. The motive for the killings remains a mystery. *AP*

Death of unrepentant McVeigh backed in US, assailed abroad

TERRE HAUTE, Indiana—The US government put to death unrepentant Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh on Monday for the deadliest terrorist attack on US soil in an execution strongly supported at home but condemned abroad.

McVeigh took to the grave any feelings of remorse he may have harbored for killing 168 people and injuring hundreds more.

As survivors and relatives of victims peered into the execution chamber here, the 33-year-old faced death unflinching and apparently fearless, striving to stare observers in the face before succumbing to a cocktail of lethal drugs.

McVeigh left behind mixed feelings among relatives of the victims and survivors, many of whom said they failed to achieve the closure they had been seeking for since the April 1995 bombing.

US President George W. Bush, a staunch supporter of the death penalty, issued a televised statement one hour after the execution, saying justice had finally been done.

"Today, every living person who was hurt by the evil done in Oklahoma City can rest in the knowledge that there has been a reckoning," Bush said of the first execution by the US federal government in 38 years.

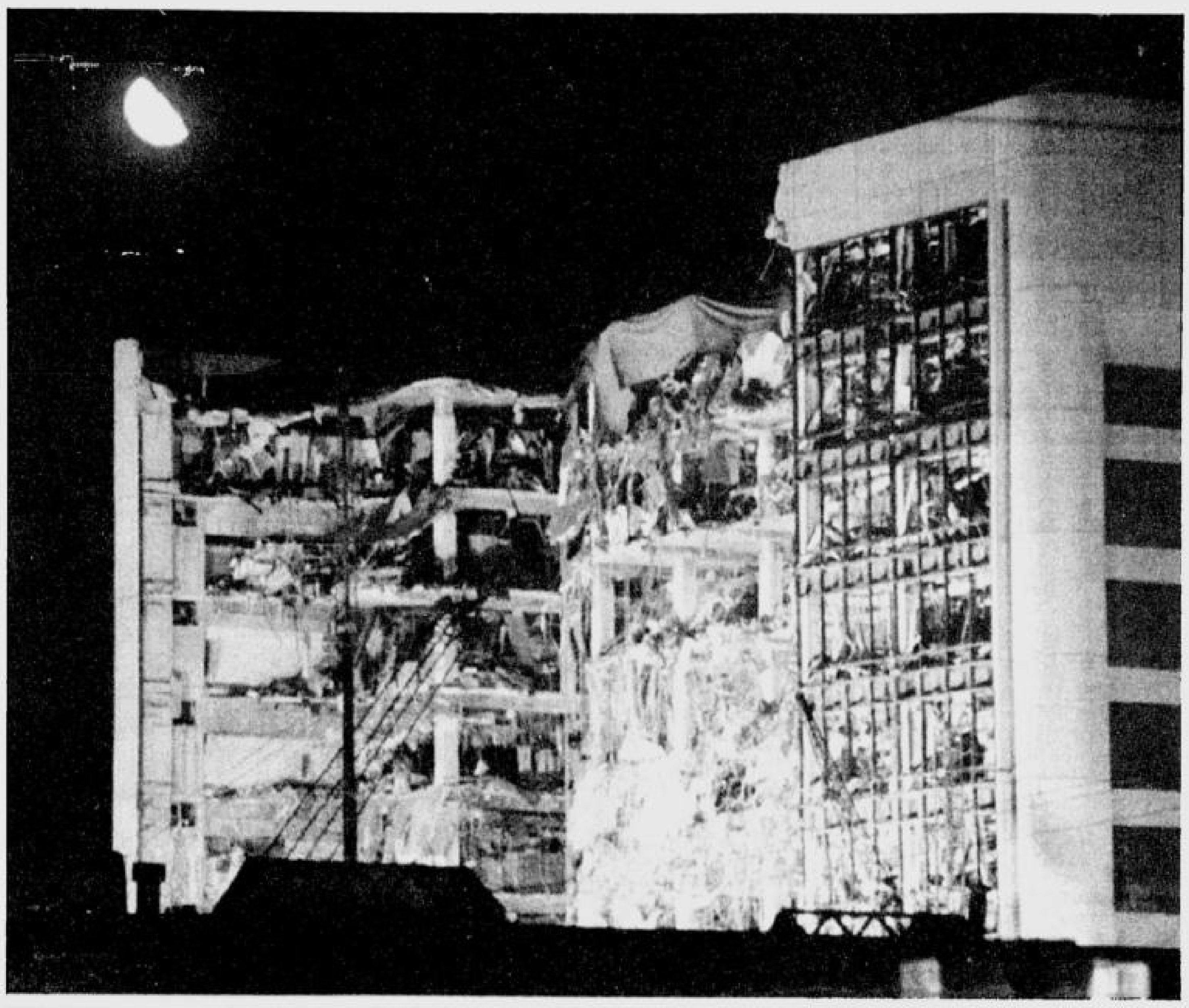
But foreign condemnation was swift and sharp.

The European Union, whose 15 member states have renounced capital punishment, expressed "regret" while the Council of Europe condemned the execution and called on the United States to outlaw the death penalty.

"Timothy McVeigh was a cold-blooded murderer. He will not be missed. But the way he died was sad, pathetic and wrong," said council president Lord Russell-Johnston.

International human rights group Amnesty International called McVeigh's death a triumph of vengeance over justice.

Americans, however, whose enthusiasm for capital punishment is high but waning in recent years, supported the execution of McVeigh in overwhelming numbers.



THE MOON hangs over the wreckage of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma in this April 21, 1995 file photo. Unrepentant Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh was executed June 11 for a crime that took 168 lives and shook a complacent America to the core.

REUTERS

A Newsweek magazine poll last month found 72 percent in support of McVeigh's execution with 22 percent opposed.

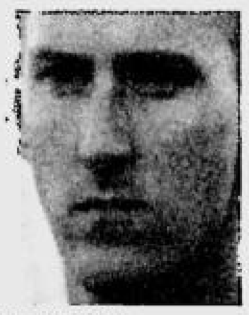
McVeigh, a self-proclaimed anti-government crusader whose hatred of the federal government was fired up by federal raids in Waco, Texas, and Ruby Ridge, Idaho, stood by his actions to the last.

He went to his death insisting that the human death toll in Oklahoma was the price that had to be paid in order to punish the government for its attacks on the secessionists at the Branch Davidian sect in Waco.

The former Gulf War veteran from western New York, state was escorted into the death chamber and tied down to a gurney around 7 a.m. (8 a.m. in Manila).

Once he could see the 30-odd assembled witnesses in the adjoining rooms, a gaunt and virtually shaven-headed McVeigh sat up and tried to establish eye contact with his lawyers, and the press corps.

He even tried to peer through the tinted glass window which concealed the 10 relatives of the victims and survivors of the blast from his gaze, before lying back in the gurney and staring at the ceiling. *AFP*



MCVEIGH

Ceasefire in Macedonia hangs after rebel attack

SKOPJE—A short ceasefire in Macedonia looked doomed yesterday after ethnic Albanian rebels ambushed a police patrol, despite a promise to hold their fire.

The Army called a surprise halt on Monday to a four-day bombardment of guerrilla-held villages and the rebels, who had been threatening to launch attacks on the capital Skopje itself, matched that by agreeing to call off their gunmen for 24 hours.

Yet when darkness fell, guerrillas fired on a police vehicle near the city of Tetovo, wounding its occupants and endangering fragile hopes that the first bilateral truce in four months of conflict might be nursed into a serious peace bid.

Four policemen were treated for bullet wounds after the machinegun attack. It took place near the scene of another ambush last week that killed five soldiers and brought simmering tensions between Albanians and majority Slavs back to boiling point. The Tetovo area is home to many of Macedonia's Albanians.

Many from the minority community, which accounts for about a third of the former Yugoslav republic's population, were not waiting to see if the latest retreat from the prospect of all-out civil war would last beyond Tuesday's rebel deadline.

More than 6,000 refugees poured over the mountainous border into the Albanian-dominated Serbian province of Kosovo on Monday, the biggest exodus in since the insurgency began.

"Most of them were from parts of Skopje," said Astrid van Genderen Stort, a spokesperson for the UNHCR refugee agency. "There was general panic that the battle was about to explode."

They may still be right. *Reuters*

Wahid poised to reshuffle Cabinet anew

JAKARTA—Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid, battling efforts to impeach him, is poised to announce his second Cabinet reshuffle this month, Foreign Minister Alwi Shihab said yesterday.

"The Cabinet reshuffle may be announced today or tomorrow (Tuesday or Wednesday)," Shihab said, quoted by the state Antara news agency.

Shihab said the planned changes were intended to make the Cabinet more effective. "Maybe there's a need for reorganization," he added, on the sidelines of a seminar here.

If Wahid does reshuffle the Cabinet, it would be a second hasty round of new appointments in less than two weeks as he maneuvers to stave off impeachment by parliament amid criticism that he has proved an incompetent and ineffective leader.

In the last reshuffle on June 1, he dumped three ministers, the attorney general and the country's police chief, and shuffled several other portfolios.

Meanwhile, Wahid's spokesperson Adhie Massardi was quoted by the Media Indonesia daily on Tuesday as saying the president had asked five ministers to draw up a compromise solution to the political conflict convulsing Indonesia. *AFP*

War creates 800,000 refugees in tiny Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka—There are some 800,000 refugees in Sri Lanka, comprising 4 percent of this tiny island-nation's population, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said yesterday.

Most of the refugees are Tamils who have been displaced by the 17-year-old separatist war which has left more than 63,000 people dead. Tamil militants who claim they are discriminated against by the dominant Sinahlese population are fighting for a separate homeland.

Calling them "a largely voiceless group of people," UNHCR said in a statement ahead of the first-ever World Refugee Day on June 20, that there was a need to look after people displaced from their homes.

The United Nations decided to mark the day to draw attention to 22 million refugees around the world.

The Sri Lankan government admits that the war, which has left 63,000 people dead on both sides, has forced people out of their homes making them refugees. But it says there are no comprehensive figures.

The fighting has driven residents of the northern Jaffna Peninsula—the traditional home of most Tamils—to seek shelter in abandoned government buildings, temples and churches.

Many people share meager food supplies and sleep on cement floors. Many more live in makeshift tents. The government also operates some refugee camps where provisions are primitive: toilets are few, water and power supplies inadequate or erratic and medical care insufficient.

The government generally tries to provide them with food supplies but logistical problems often cause delays. *AP*

More and more Thais drink urine as elixir

BANGKOK—A book espousing the medical benefits of drinking urine has inspired a growing number of Thais to adopt the practice despite health warnings, a report said yesterday.

The Thai edition of the book, "Dare You to Drink Urine," was translated from a 1994 book penned by the head of Japan's Miracle Cup of Liquid Institute and has been distributed throughout the country.

Now in its ninth printing, the book has also been distributed in many other countries, including the United States and Germany, a report in the Nation daily said.

Among the adherents of urine drinking are some Buddhist monks living in the isolated jungles of rural Thailand, who are known to have sipped their urine to ward off illness.

"It is known that some Buddhist monks consume their own urine, especially those who live lives of austerity in the jungles of Thailand," a monk named Suriya Chatthong was quoted as saying.

"It protects them from illness. So I think this knowledge should be passed on to the public," he said.

Other Thais claim therapeutic doses of urine can work wonders.

"Urine is an amazing medicine," said one convert, Kittikool Saorunee. "Now I drink my urine every morning. I also use it to clean my nasal orifice to help with the allergy."

"Dare You to Drink Urine" describes internal and external applications of urine to clear up mild and life-threatening ailments alike, including the common cold, sore throat, asthma, tuberculosis, skin cancer and AIDS, the report said.

While some praise urine consumption as a cure-all, some Thai doctors warn the practice could be harmful despite the various nutrients in urine. *AFP*

Holocaust victim Anne Frank remembered

SYDNEY—Prominent Australians and Holocaust survivors honored the memory yesterday of Jewish schoolgirl Anne Frank with 14 hours of continuous readings from her acclaimed World War II diary.

Frank, who would have been 72 years old Tuesday, recorded her experiences while her family was in hiding a concealed annex of a canalside house in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam.

Frank and her family were eventually betrayed and all but her father, Otto, died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1944.

More than 150 politicians, journalists and community leaders took turns Tuesday reading Frank's diary at Sydney's Powerhouse Museum, which is hosting a larger exhibition on the schoolgirl's life.

Among them was Betty Lissing, a Dutch Holocaust survivor who has written about how Frank's diary helped her through the dark days after the war.

Frank's stepsister, Eva Schloss, visiting from London, also took a turn reading from the book before opening a play called "And then they came for me—remembering the world of Anne Frank," based on Schloss' own experiences.

Schloss, was a playmate and friend of Anne's before both of their families were forced into hiding. Schloss survived her time in the Auschwitz concentration camp.

Frank's father, Otto Frank, later married Schloss' mother.

Schloss said despite having read Frank's diary many times, Tuesday's reading was an emotional experience.

"What I found so moving was that young people, old people, Australian people, Dutch people . . . everybody came and read and on her birthday, didn't forget her," Schloss said. *AP*

Australia jailing too many Aborigines

CANBERRA—Australia is jailing 15 times as many Aborigines as non-indigenous Australians, a government statistician said yesterday.

The rate has actually risen over the past 10 years, despite a scalding report delivered by a royal commission into Aboriginal deaths in custody in May 1991.

The commission said then that the main reason so many Aborigines were dying in Australian jails was that far too many were sent there in the first place.

However, the number of Aboriginal deaths in Australia's prisons has also risen over the past decade.

There were 110 deaths between 1980 and 1989 and 115 between 1990 and 1999, according to the Institute of Criminology.

Statistician Dennis Trewin reported yesterday that among the Aboriginal community last year, 1,727 were jailed for every 100,000 adults, compared to 121.8 for the rest of Australian society.

Ten years earlier, their incarceration rate was 1,638 per 100,000.

Elliott Johnston, the commissioner who presided over the report into Aboriginal deaths in custody, said Canberra must tackle poverty, which leads young Aborigines, in particular, into brushes with the law.

"That really is at the heart of reconciliation," he said.

Many Aborigines have faced jail for trivial offences.

An Aboriginal boy, for example, was jailed in the West Australian gold mining town of Kalgoorlie for stealing an ice cream.

And an Aboriginal youth committed suicide in custody, in the Northern Territory capital of Darwin, after being incarcerated for stealing felt tipped pens and writing paper.

The case led to a public outcry, and the territory government was forced to ease its strict policy of mandatory jail sentences for third offenders. *AFP*

Across the **NATION**

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

UP music stude slain in attack

By Rey Nasol and Job Belen
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—Ma. Razhiela E. Miranda, 25, of Sagpon, Daraga town in Albay, loved music.

She was the youngest among the nine children in the family and the only one who wished to continue the family's love for music.

She entered the University of the Philippines College of Music where she was supposed to be in her junior year.

On Sunday morning, however, Miranda's life was claimed by discordant bursts of rockets and machine gun fire from a Philippine Air Force helicopter gunship.

The aircraft was providing support to Army ground troops who attacked a big New People's Army camp in mountainous Sitio Tugawe, Barangay Bolulo, Guinobatan, Albay.

Miranda's remains now lie in a tightly sealed coffin at the Funeraria de Nuestra Salvacion in Bonot, Legazpi City.

She was one among an undetermined number of suspected rebels who were killed or wounded when two PAF helicopter gunships strafed their camp.

The military said the rebels, numbering about 70, were surprised at the attack but managed to fire back and flee.

"We believe there were more casualties on the rebel side because we used attack helicopters with 50-cal. machine guns," claimed Col. Dante Bonifacio, 202nd Army Infantry Brigade commander.

He said the helicopter pilot reported to have struck down the NPA camp with rockets and machine gun fire.

Soldiers of the 202nd IB attacked the camp after a resident allegedly tipped them off.

Casualties

The government troopers suffered two fatalities, S/Sgt. Avelino Lalogan and Cpl. Felomino Pol, according to Col. Manuel Mariano, commanding officer of the 22nd Army Infantry Battalion.

Miranda's family did not know that Razhiela had joined the NPA.

Her mother Rafaela, principal of the Albay Central School here, said she was shocked to learn that her daughter, who she knew was studying at UP, was among those killed in the encounter.

She said her daughter was taking up nursing at the Bicol University in Legazpi when she decided to transfer to UP to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music.

Rafaela said she was so sad as she never expected her daughter to have joined the communist rebels.

She recalled that Razhiela would frequently come home, sometimes with friends. But she said her daughter did not return this summer vacation, so she presumed that her child was attending summer classes.

She said she trusted Razhiela, whom she described as intelligent, humble, meek and understanding, and a very good singer and pianist.

"Razhiela got the highest average among nursing freshmen students before she shifted to (a course in) music," Rafaela said.

Miranda had been a consistent honor student since her elementary grades until she graduated at the BU High School in 1996.

"She wanted to go to Hong Kong to sing with a band composed of our relatives, but I told her to finish her studies first," the mother said.

Not the first time

The Task Force Detainees of the Philippines and Karapatan, human rights groups, reported that a certain Ziza Miranda survived the battle and was in the hands of the military.

But Bonifacio said he had not received reports of any woman rebel captured.

He said this was not the first time that a UP student was killed in an encounter.

He recalled that the first priest to be killed in a clash between rebels and government troops was reported when he was still commanding the 1st Scout Ranger Battalion in Davao del Norte in 1987.

"We killed a certain Father Sala at Barangay Mainit, Mabuntaran, Davao del Norte, together with Joel Jose, a UP student," he recalled.

Another priest, identified only as Father Navarro, was killed in a later encounter, he said.

Bonifacio said his men were still combing the field in the Albay attack to determine the casualties on the rebel side.

He said the rebel camp had seven huts and a big structure used as classroom.

The camp is located on a square-kilometer area of a thickly forested mountain in the village.

Tax collection

Bonifacio said he deployed the soldiers following reports the rebels were collecting "revolutionary taxes" from villagers

The soldiers learned of the presence of NPA guerrillas in a big camp in Barangay Bolulo, about 20 km west of Guinobatan.

The camp is said to be the lair of the Santos-Binamira Command, the biggest NPA unit operating in Camarines Sur, Sorsogon and Albay, Bonifacio said.

Bonifacio said they also learned that Iglecerio Pernia, alias Ka Choy, the highest-ranking leader of the NPA unit, was in the area during the raid.

"A gunfight was really expected because the soldiers entered the rebels' camp," Bonifacio said.

He added it was difficult to penetrate a big camp without engaging in an exchange of fire.

"*Pagpasok pa lang ng tropa sa area nagkaputukan na agad* (As soon as the troops entered the area, an exchange of gunfire erupted)," the Army official said.

He said the encounter had preempted rebel plans to launch attacks.

Brig. Gen. Jacinto Ligot, commander of the 2nd Infantry Division based in Tanay, Rizal, who arrived here yesterday, ordered Bonifacio to deploy more soldiers to pursue the rebels.

Government troops recovered a generator, NPA documents and personal belongings of the rebels

One of the documents reportedly contained details of an NPA military training from June 6 to 26.

Nueva Ecija judge killed in ambush

CABANATUAN CITY—A judge assigned to hear cases in five Nueva Ecija towns was killed in an ambush by unidentified men in Peñaranda town on Monday.

Police said Judge Geminiano Eduardo, 66, of Jaen town, was ambushed after hearing a case in Peñaranda. He was preparing to leave for another appointment when he was attacked.

Reports said two motorcycle-riding men shot Eduardo at Barangay Sto. Tomas while he was aboard a jeep.

The judge died on the way to a hospital in Gapan town.

His death shocked Novo Ecijanos as it was the first time that a judge was killed in the province.

People who had known Eduardo described him as an "upright, good judge." They knew of no reason for him to be assassinated.

Reports indicated that Eduardo was driving the jeep when the motorcycle-riding men closed in and fired at him.

Eduardo's companions, identified as Philip de Guzman, a court process server, and Luzviminda Morelos, a court stenographer, were wounded.

They were brought to a hospital in Gapan and were pronounced out of danger.

Glen Eduardo, 25, a son of the slain judge, said his father had no known personal enemy. He could not cite any motive for the killing.

Eduardo, who is a close relative of the mayor of Jaen town, Cesar Eduardo, had served the judiciary for 30 years. He was assigned to hear cases in the towns of Jaen, Gapan, San Leonardo, Peñaranda and General Tinio, according to reports gathered here from a court employee and an official of the Department of the Interior and Local Government. ***Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

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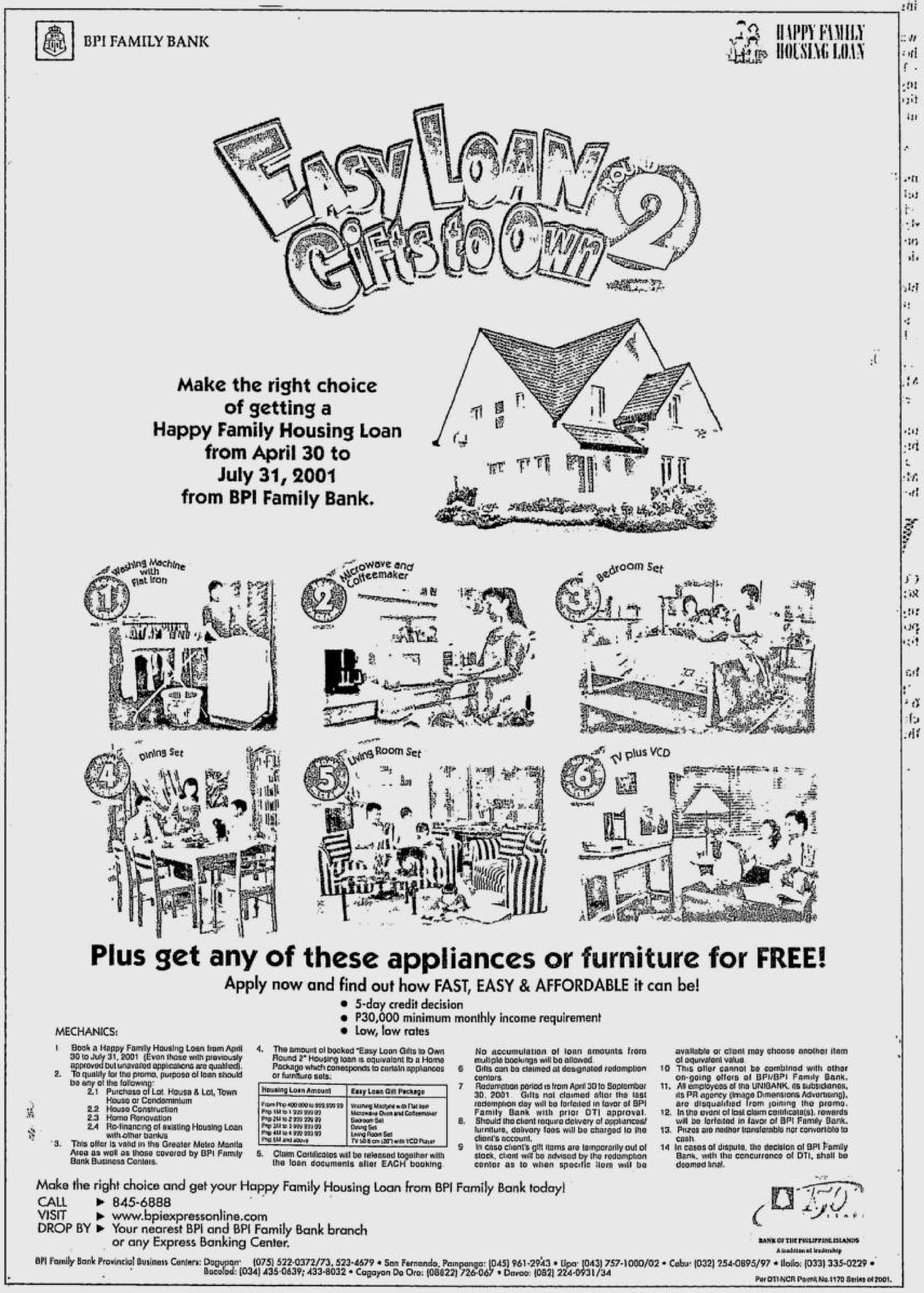

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Php 4M to 4 999 999 99	Living Room Set
Php 5M and above	TV 50.8 cm (20") with VCD Player

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ROUNDUP

PAOCTF cop yields

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—A member of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, who has evaded arrest in connection with the murder of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer, surrendered to Central Luzon police director Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr. here on June 4. Galang said Insp. Danilo Villanueva, 49, told police he was not the same man named in the warrant of arrest issued by a Metro Manila court. Villanueva pointed to one SPO3 Allan Villanueva, another PAOCTF agent, whom he claimed was involved in the Dacer slaying last year. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Firm exec abducted

PLARIDEL, Bulacan—Suspected kidnappers seized a warehouse manager of Unilever Philippines in his house in Barangay Tabang here on Tuesday night. Police identified the victim as Miguel Siscar, 51, warehouse manager of SAS Inter Sales, a dealer of Unilever products. Supt. Richard Albano, Central Luzon director of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said the kidnappers took Siscar at gunpoint and dragged him into their car. Albano said the kidnappers demanded a P20-million ransom. *Carmela Reyes and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

19 guns seized

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—At least 19 firearms, most of them high-powered, were seized at dawn on Wednesday in simultaneous police raids on 11 houses in Barangays Bitas, Lacquios, Getiawin and Baño in Arayat town, reports here said. Police said the raiders took nine M-16 rifles, one M-14 rifle, four .38 cal. revolvers, two .45 cal. pistols, one Carbine rifle, one shotgun, one grenade launcher, one hand grenade and assorted bullets. At least 11 people were arrested and charged with illegal possession of firearms, police said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Seaman killed

THE CHURCH-BASED Apostleship of the Sea (AOS)-Manila decried the killing of Pakistani seaman Udsman Abdullah, allegedly by three dock workers in Davao City. Fr. Sabino Bernardi, AOS-Manila director, said that on May 30, three men allegedly stabbed Abdullah in the chest for no apparent reason inside a bar. The priest said he wondered why one of the killers, who was previously arrested for another stabbing case, was out of jail. *Norman Bordadora*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 34° Lo 24°	**Baguio** HI 26° Lo 16°	**Tuguegarao** HI 33° Lo 22°
Laoag HI 33° Lo 25°	**Clark Zone** HI 33° Lo 24°	**Tagaytay** HI 32° Lo 22°
Legazpi HI 33° Lo 25°	**Bacolod** HI 33° Lo 25°	**Roxas** HI 33° Lo 25°
Cebu HI 32° Lo 26°	**Tacloban** HI 32° Lo 25°	**Gen. Santos** HI 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga HI 32° Lo 24°	**Cagayan de Oro** HI 32° Lo 23°	**Davao** HI 31° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/06/13/01

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Moros still longing for independence

By Allan A. Nawal
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—While most parts of the country observed the 103rd Independence Day yesterday, about 10 million Moros, mostly in Mindanao, hope to have a similar celebration as an independent nation one day, according to a Muslim scholar.

Prof. Abu Syed Mansur Lingga of the Ulama Executive Committee, a group of professional Muslims, said the desire to secede never waned among the Moros.

"It is the same as the burning desire of the Filipinos to be free from colonization during the Spanish, American and Japanese occupations. The Moros continue to dream of the day when they would regain the independence that was forcibly (taken) away from them," Lingga said.

According to historical accounts, the Moros were already governing themselves through sultanates when the Spaniards came in the 16th century.

Despite repeated attempts by Spain to conquer them, the sultanates succeeded in being free from foreign dominance, until the Treaty of Paris was signed between Spain and America on Dec. 10, 1898.

Under the agreement, Spain let go of the Philippine colony after having been paid $20 million. The US would take possession of Luzon and the Visayas only, but it annexed Mindanao as well, Lingga said.

The desire to be independent was again inflamed by the Jabidah Massacre in 1968. The senseless killing of Muslim youths trained to invade Sabah by henchmen of then President Ferdinand Marcos again lit the flame of nationalism among Moro youths led by Nur Misuari.

The flame of nationalism, Muslim historians say, gave birth to the Moro National Liberation Front, which is chaired by Misuari.

"The aim was to regain the nationhood forcibly taken away from us," said Muslimin Sema, who would later become secretary general of the MNLF.

In 1980, Hashim Salamat and his close followers bolted out of the MNLF to form the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Sixteen years later, Misuari signed a peace deal with the Philippine government, embracing the idea of autonomy for the Moros.

The MILF, however, persisted and to date has remained firm in its position in favor of independence.

"There are many ways to achieve self-determination as illustrated by Filipino heroes themselves," Lingga said.

For the Moro professionals, struggle does not have to be waged through armed means.

But Lingga said he was not questioning the MILF approach, which is using semi-conventional warfare to push for a separate state.

"Both approaches were also employed by the Filipinos to gain independence. In the case of the MILF, we could liken them to the struggle of Andres Bonifacio and the Katipuneros while our approach was more of the Jose Rizal and the Apolinario Mabini types. In short, we are choosing the peaceful way of achieving our independence," Lingga said.

The assembly of thousands of Moros and *lumads* in Maguindanao on June 2 capped that peaceful approach where they renewed their declaration for a separate state.

Copies of the declaration were sent to the government, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the United Nations.

Palanan flag displayed at museum

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The flag that Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo used when the Americans captured him in Palanan, Isabela, 100 years ago, was displayed at the Aguinaldo Museum here on Tuesday.

The war banner, more known as the Palanan flag, was taken by the men of Gen. Frederick Funston when they captured Aguinaldo.

Funston presumably got the flag as his war booty until his death in 1917.

On June 12, 1957, during the country's 59th Independence Day celebration, the US government, through Ambassador Charles E. Bohlen, returned the flag to Aguinaldo, who was then 88 years old.

The flag was unveiled in a simple ceremony at the museum here on Independence Day.

Aguinaldo's great grandson, Ian Suntay Tañedo, 22, said the flag was briefly displayed during the 1960s and had since been kept privately.

Measuring four feet long and 9.3 feet wide, it is similar to the Philippine flag, except that what is blue in the present-day banner is black in the Palanan flag.

Black, museum notes say, symbolized the Filipinos' desire to die first rather than be enslaved by a foreign power.

The Palanan flag is made of cotton and stained by blood shed by Aguinaldo's men. The original golden rays of the sun have been smudged, although the mythical face emblazoned on it is still visible.

The blunt stars, also with mythical faces representing the three major islands of the Philippines, is now faded.

Tañedo said the Palanan flag was kept under wraps in a dehumidified room in the Aguinaldo family's house here. The cool Baguio weather has also helped preserve it, he said.

Black, not blue

The flag is said to be much older than the first Philippine flag supposedly made by Marcela Agoncillo in Hong Kong. The Palanan flag would have been the last link in the evolution of the Philippine flag, with only the black changed into blue in the last version.

Also, the Palanan flag is less ornate than the first Philippine flag which is embroidered, made of silk and with "Libertad, Egualdad, Fraternidad" printed on its blue side.

"The Palanan flag is equally historical because it was battle-tested and even had blood on it," Tañedo said.

The Philippine Centennial Movement in the United States and Canada noted: "On March 23, 1901, the Malolos Republic collapsed with the capture of General Aguinaldo in Palanan, Isabela. The American troops moved in to occupy the Islands. The bullet-riddled flag came down never to be seen again in public. For 12 years, from 1907, the Filipinos were officially banned from publicly displaying their flag. However, as fear and suspicion began to dissipate, the new National Assembly in 1919 proclaimed Oct. 30, Flag Day."

But the Palanan flag did not show any sign of being riddled by bullets. It bore small holes due to decay.

Museum curator and archivist Francisco Alonso said the Palanan flag was the battle flag of the Philippine Republic.

Tañedo admitted that the maker of the Palanan flag has remained a mystery. Even Aguinaldo, in his recollection of his capture in Palanan, did not mention anything about the flag.

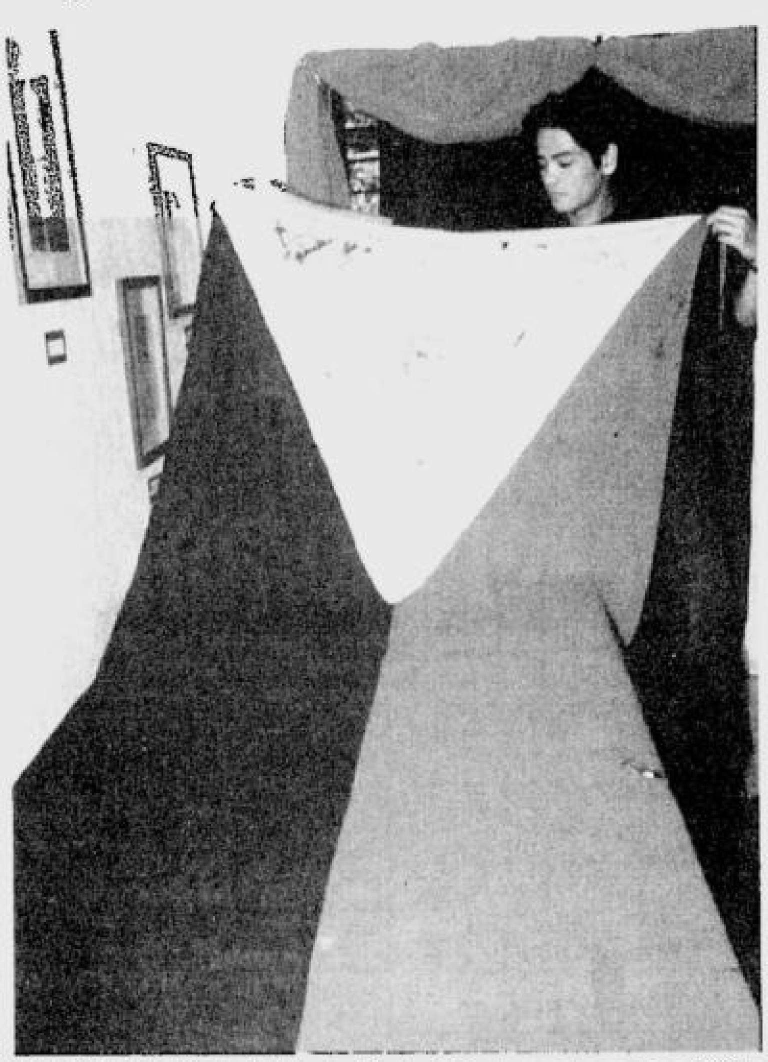
Del Pilar

But Tañedo said adults would probably recall the Palanan flag design as the same one grade school teachers used to refer to as the Gen. Gregorio del Pilar flag.

"That is also true because this was Del Pilar's flag until a few years before his death. We have inscriptions from some of Del Pilar's documents, which indicated that Aguinaldo adopted Del Pilar's original flag. Del Pilar indicated in his manuscripts that he gave his war flag to Aguinaldo, as well as another flag later on," Tañedo said.

In the August 1901 edition of "Everybody's Magazine," Aguinaldo noted that his capture was made after his 32nd birthday on March 22.

He said the Macabebe mercenaries, together with Lazaro Segovia, who pretended to be the leader of men who captured the enemies he was presenting, caught Aguinaldo's men by surprise.



THE PALANAN flag is held by Ian Suntay Tañedo, great grandson of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo. E.V. ESPIRITU

A brief gunfight occurred and the "enemy soldiers" turned out to be aiding the Americans.

"A little later, five Americans, all armed with carbines, came into the room where we were. They came up to us, and one of them asked, 'Which one of you is Aguinaldo?' As soon as I had been identified by the Americans, I was placed, with Dr. Barcelona and Colonel (Simeon) Villa, in one of the rooms of the house, and guards were posted at all the windows and doors, under (the) command of one of the Americans," Aguinaldo said.

"The other four Americans then began to search the house for whatever papers and documents might be there," he said.

Funston's attack

It was not known if the flag was among those ransacked by Funston's men.

"It is difficult to give a detailed account of what occurred outside the house during the confusion that arose after the beginning of the attack. The soldiers of my guard were completely surprised, and did not even have their rifles loaded. One was killed and two others were wounded, the rest making their escape; but whether there were any wounded among those who got away or not I do not know," Aguinaldo said.

"When the firing began, all the inhabitants of the village fled precipitately in the endeavor to escape; and when the attack was over, there was not a living soul in the place except General Funston's men and ourselves, the prisoners of war. A few scattered shots were fired by my men in their retreat, but to no effect. They had been taken so entirely by surprise that they had no chance to resist."

10 Quezon board members snub Freedom Day rites

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—Ten of the 12 members of the provincial board boycotted yesterday's 103rd celebration of Independence Day in protest of the alleged insensitive organization of the program.

Only board member and Representative-elect Georgilou Yumol and former ex-officio and board member-elect James Rey Bico attended the affair.

The protest arose from the exclusion of at least four board members who lost in the May 14 polls from the commemoration rites.

Reelected board member Narciso Malite assailed the program organizer for being insensitive.

Speaking during the board's regular session Monday, Malite said his defeated colleagues were still members of the board as their terms of office have yet to end on June 30.

The new board members were also allowed to deliver their messages while the defeated ones had no participation at all.

Malite expressed surprise that the newly elected members would deliver speeches in the program although their terms did not yet officially start.

Board member Lourdes de Luna, Sangguniang Kabataan provincial head and ex-officio board member, said the non-inclusion of the defeated members in the program "is very disappointing and inappropriate, considering their valuable contributions in the outgoing board."

Those who did not show up at the celebration yesterday, aside from Malite, De Luna, and losing board members Precy Glorioso, Billy Andal, Pat Andaman, Claro Talaga, were board members Hermilando Alcala, Luis Serrano, Remedios Diestro and Romulo Edañ.

It was learned that Talabong was the one who organized the program in the absence of Gov. Wilfrido Enverga, who is in the United States.

Cebu City Hall fire destroys coop office

CEBU CITY—A fire broke out at the City Hall's cooperative office yesterday morning, triggering suspicions of arson.

But the city fire department immediately dismissed the claims, saying the fire was caused by faulty electrical wiring inside the Bayanihan Credit Cooperative office on the second floor of the City Hall main building.

Fire investigator SPO1 Felix Romero said the fire destroyed the wall of the cooperative's mezzanine floor, three computers, two typewriters, an air-conditioning unit and several documents. Romero pegged the damage at P80,000.

Vice Mayor-elect Michael Rama said an investigation should be made to determine the cause of the fire.

Rama's cousin, Councilor-elect George Rama said the fire could have been the work of arsonists, occurring at a time when outgoing Mayor Alvin Garcia was ending his term on June 30.

He noted that the fire happened on Independence Day, a public holiday, and no employees were around.

The fire truck, which was placed on standby at the City Hall, had just left when the fire broke out, he added. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

6 gunmen burn bus, kill driver, conductor

By Hernan P. dela Cruz and Froilan Gallardo
PDI Mindanao Bureau

PAGADIAN CITY—Six men shot and killed a driver and a conductor of a Rural Transit bus in Maigo, Lanao del Norte, on Monday night.

Supt. Laut Sarip, Lanao del Norte police chief, ruled out the involvement of Moro rebels in the attack.

He said initial investigation showed that the gunmen were relatives of a certain Hadji Nur Mamao of Davao City, who died in a recent vehicular accident.

Sarip said the bus, driven by Carmelo Rabuyo, was the same unit that ran over Mamao. The bus company allegedly changed the unit's route to Dipolog City.

But Sarip said they could not determine if Rabuyo, 38, was the same driver who drove the bus when Mamao was accidentally killed in Davao City.

Police recovered the identification card of a certain Amanudin Mamao, an employee of the mayor's office in Lapu-Lapu City, which was apparently left behind by the attackers.

He said they were checking the relationship of Hadji Mamao and Amanudin.

Police said one of the gunmen reportedly boarded the bus in Iligan City on Monday night. Upon reaching Barangay Liangan in Maigo town, he told the driver to slow down.

Five other men, who were waiting along the road, boarded the bus and immediately ordered the driver and his conductor, Jaime Bago, to step outside.

The men shot and killed Rabuyo and Bago. The passengers were not harmed.

After telling the passengers to flee, the gunmen burned the bus and fled on foot. *With a report from AFP*

Hospital, Philhealth execs to meet

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Heads of big private hospitals here have agreed to sit down with executives of the government-owned Philippine Health Insurance Corp. on June 20 to avert a crisis looming over the local health care industry.

Dr. Jose Medardo Labordo, Philhealth senior vice president for insurance operations, said a joint committee composed of representatives from Philhealth and the Private Hospital Association of the Philippines (PHAP) in the region would discuss the delays in the payment of claims and problems on procedures imposed by Philhealth.

Philhealth will be represented by regional manager Marlyn Geduspan and three others. The PHAP group will be led by regional president Dr. Elmer Pedregosa.

Officials of the Iloilo Mission Hospital (IMH) and the Iloilo Doctors Hospital (IDH) earlier threatened to shut out members of Philhealth unless the government health insurance corporation speeds up its processing of their claims and straightens its procedures in dealing with accredited hospitals.

In a position paper, the PHAP-Western Visayas complained of delayed payment of claims, increase in volume of unpaid claims that were returned to the hospitals, the tedious use of logbooks and submission of monthly mandatory reports, and the "unfriendly atmosphere" at the Philhealth regional office.

It was signed by Pedregosa of the IMH; Jo Marie Muyco, IDH; Sr. Norma Manzano, St Paul Hospital; George Abueg, Bacolod Doctor's Hospital; Rufo Gasapo, Bacolod Sanitarium; Joaquin Torre, Dr. Pablo O. Torre Memorial Hospital; and Dolores Abadiano, Capiz Emmanuel Hospital.

The seven hospitals comprise at least half of the total 2,000-bed capacity of 35 private hospitals in the region. As of May, their delayed claims totaled P80 million.

Geduspan, in a press conference Monday, said her office would speed up the processing of hospital reimbursement forms, which have averaged 10,000 a month since January. In 2000, the monthly claims submitted averaged only 5,000.

Beginning this month, Geduspan promised Philhealth would process the claims within 30 to 37 days. A hospital is given 60 days to submit a claim after the discharge of its patient. Philhealth has another 60 days to process it.

Geduspan, however, denied her office was remiss in reimbursing the hospital claims. She said her office released P330 million to 75 hospitals in the region from January to June 10. Of the amount, P226 million went to the seven big private hospitals.

INQUIRER Northern Luzon
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ▪ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

Ifugaos' 'Hudhud' gets Unesco nod

BY FRANK CIMATU
Baguio City

THE IFUGAOS' version of "Star Wars," the Mexican *telenovela* and the Tagalog's *pasyon* (Passion of Christ) finally got its due.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) has recognized the Ifugao epic "Hudhud," citing it as among the "masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity."

This was the first time that the Unesco gave the awards.

The Hudhud epic is the only Southeast Asian cultural piece selected in the Unesco list.

The Hudhud, once chanted, will go on for two to three days. The epic is chanted by Ifugao women, usually at harvest time, funeral wakes and weeding time.

The *munhaw-e* or the presentor sings the story and the *munhudhud* or the choir follows it up.

The Hudhud, described by the late anthropologist Fr. Francis Lambrecht, CICM, as "highly figurative, pleonastic and repetitious," has been sung by generations of Ifugaos since the late 17th century and is still a central part of the Ifugao life.

It joins the Kunqu Opera from China, Kutiyattam Sanskrit Theater of India and the cultural space of "Sosso Bala" in Niagassola of Guinea as awardees in the Unesco list.

Other awardees are the Gbofe Afounhaha (music of transverse trumpets) of the Tagbanas in Ivory Coast; Garifuna language, dance and music of Belize; Oruro carnival of Bolivia; the Congos of Villa Mella of the Dominican Republic; the oral heritage and cultural manifestations of the Zapara people of Ecuador; polyphonic singing from Georgia Republic; oral heritage of Gelede of Benin and the Opera de Pupi (Sicilian puppetry) of Italy.

It was the second time that Unesco honored Ifugao, after the province's famous rice terraces were included among the agency's World Heritage sites.

There used to be many versions of the Hudhud but the advent of Catholicism in the province has helped dilute this heritage.

It was Lambrecht who brought the Hudhud to the international scene, transcribing it with the help of the late Kiangan chanteuse Rosario Maliyan and her daughter Lourdes Saquing.

The result is a 500-page book reprinted in a Saint Louis University journal in 1967.

Kiangan schoolteacher Pio Abul also transcribed a version of the Hudhud, titled "Hudhud of Aliguyun and Hananga" during the onset of World War II, which the Kalinga poet Amador Daguio used in his "Harvest Song of Aliguyun."

The beginnings

The Hudhud romances were said to have started when a certain Pumbakhayon from a large rice terrace of Kuto came upon a group of women harvesting in nearby fields.

Then he struck his spear on a rock and told the women that he had a story to tell. And so came forth the story of Aliguyun and Bugan, Dinulawan and Aginaya and the other stellar characters of the Hudhud.

After a day of telling the story of his ancestors, Pumbakhayon took his spear and went to the rice paddies. The women who heard the wondrous tale also fell dead, except two young women who taught Pumbakhayon's tales to their people and later to their grandchildren.

The stone in Kuto, a village in Kiangan, Ifugao, still exists and it carries an imprint of the storyteller's feat.

The National Library and the National Museum will create a complete archive of the Hudhud romances.

The young Ifugaos, and the rest of the Filipinos, will also get a glimpse of the Hudhud tales when these are re-introduced into the curriculum.

The Hudhud is sung first by the *munhaw-e* verse by verse in moderato, with no more than five or six words per verse, until she slows down to invite the female chorus to join.

The chorus closes its verse with the long "*eeeeeeya*" and the third verse with an "*eehem*" after the names of the characters or village.

"Whoever listens for some time to a Hudhud chant cannot be perplexed at hearing the women continually match their chorus with the soloist's part of the verse," Lambrecht said.

"They seem to have a memory which is little short of prodigious since they can correctly prolong the presentor's phrase a thousand times without hesitation or failure."

The particular Hudhud presented by Lambrecht starts with Bugan being egged on by her younger brother Dinulawan to go to a nearby village to present her beauty and charm.

Dinulawan gives his scabbard, hoping his sword would fit in and thus win her heart. The problem is that only the rich Aliguyun's sword fits the scabbard and he is married.

In one Hudhud version, there are a total of 80 episodes, involving headhunting, spear battles and expensive marriages.

So goes the story until two to three days later when the chanters finish it with Bugan and Dinulawan returning home after defeating their relatives in different battles. Bugan also gets her man Aliguyun.

Lambrecht cited various theories on the age of the Hudhud romances.

He said there was no mention of the rice terraces, which shows that these were still being built when the epic was first coming into form.

He cited Felix Keesing's 1962 "Ethnohistory of Northern Luzon," which said the Ifugaos learned to cultivate wet rice at the end of 16th century.

Chinese influence

The existence of words in the Hudhud regarding iron tools and weapons also showed not only the Chinese influence but also the fact that the Ifugaos cannot build the rice terraces without iron implements.

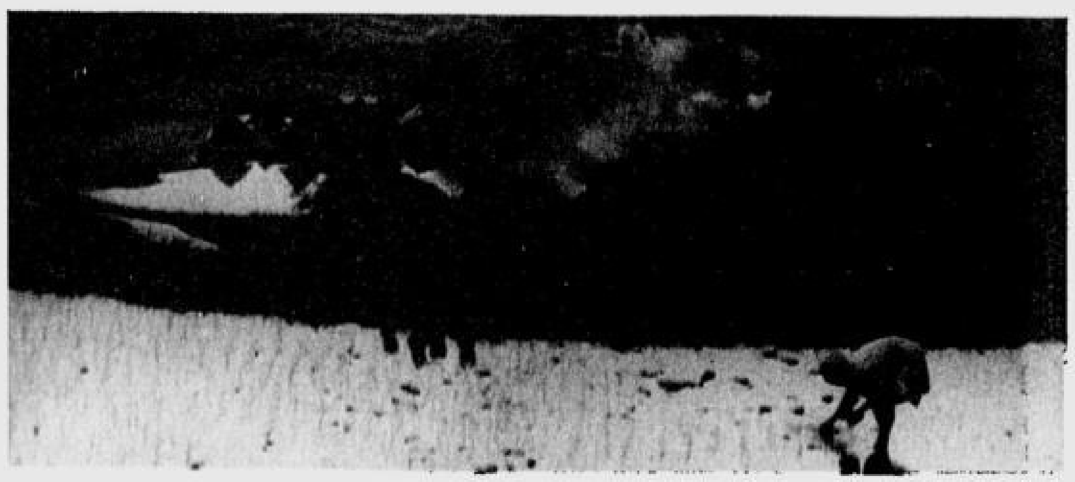
The *palattug* or the rifle in the verses also showed the Chinese or Spanish influence. Geneologies within the Hudhud romances showed that the tale was first recited probably in 1680.

Lambrecht said the social characteristics of the ancient Ifugaos as seen in the Hudhud showed a strong matriarchal society. There also existed the service marriage where a newlywed husband had to pay service in his wife's house and community.

The maternal brother, elder brother of the wife, was also more powerful than the husband. Headhunting was also prominent in the Hudhud romances.

Lambrecht said that, like Salome in the Bible, the Ifugao woman egged on her husband or brother to go on headhunting raids and bring home a head to win her heart and sow fear among the lowlanders.

Spear battles were also waged to impress the girls more than to harm the enemies.



ALTHOUGH there was no mention of the magnificent rice terraces in the "Hudhud" romances, it was possible that these were still being built when the romantic epic was coming into form.

FILE PHOTO

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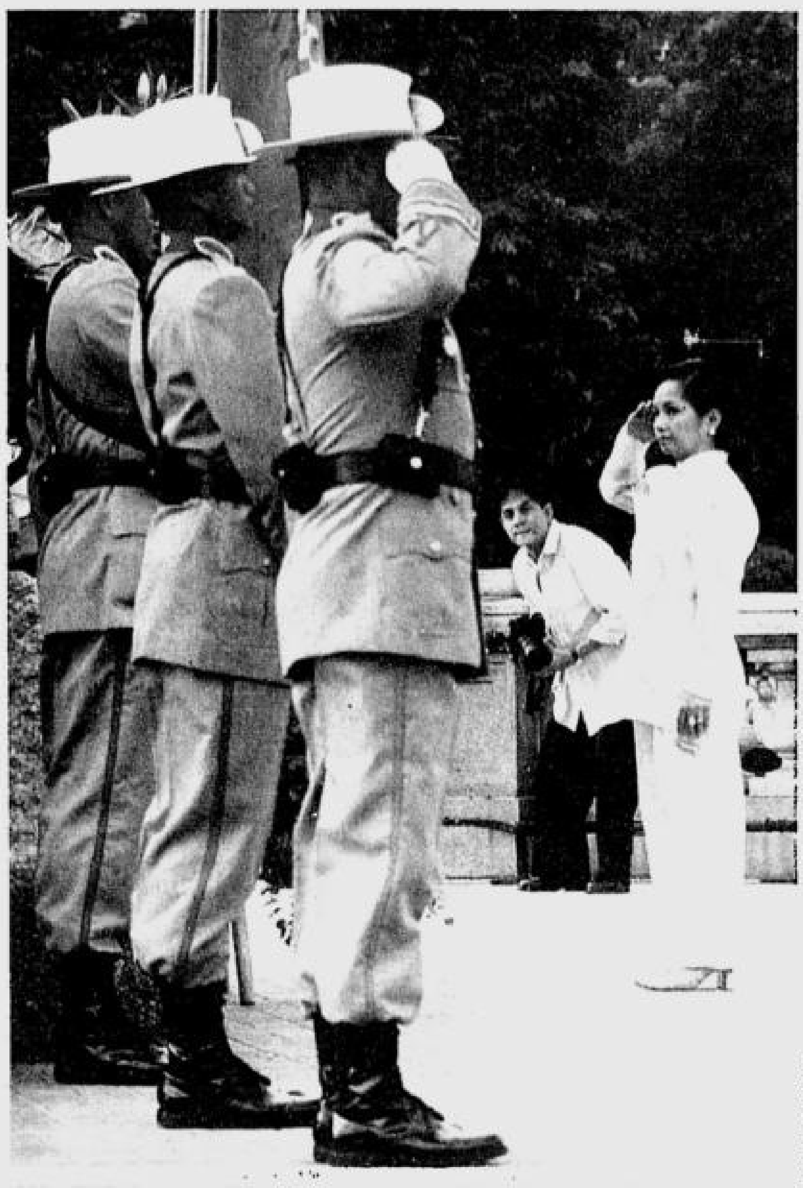


GETTING the eye of the President at the Rizal Monument.

JOAN BONDOC

TROOPING the line at the Rizal Park after the flag-raising rites.

JOAN BONDOC

Rose petals shower on Gloria

(From page A1)

cluded US Charge d'Affaires Michael Malinowski during a *vin d'honneur* at the Palace at 11 a.m.

Hitch

A little hitch marked the Independence Day celebrations at the Rizal Park.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, Independence Day chair, arrived at the park only to find out that the rites had started because Ms Macapagal had come 15 minutes ahead of him.

The President said that she named Gordon chair of the 103rd Independence Day celebrations because he had "pizzazz."

Gordon arrived 10 minutes before the 7 a.m. rites and was mortified that the rites had begun without him.

Dressed in a *piña barong* over beige slacks, Ms Macapagal greeted Cabinet officials and members of the diplomatic corps upon alighting from a limousine on the left wing of the Rizal Monument.

The military band played the presidential march to greet her arrival.

The President was accompanied by Mr. Jose Miguel Arroyo and their three children—Mikey, Dato and Luli, who was wearing a white gown.

As the President stepped on the dais facing the honor guards, she was given a 21-gun salute and the National Anthem was played.

Gordon was supposed to stand to the right of the President for the flag-raising ceremony.

But because he had not arrived, Education Secretary Raul Roco took his place. Armed Forces Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva was on the designated dais to the left of the President.

Honor guards were hoisting a giant flag in front of the Rizal Monument when reporters spotted Gordon walking briskly toward the site. It was 6:50 a.m.

The giant flag fluttered under a mosaic of clean white clouds in a cool morning. The well-heeled crowd of guests and diplomats mingled with ordinary folk who came to witness the ceremony.

"But this is supposed to take place at 7 a.m.," Gordon muttered, looking at his watch and shaking his head.

Gordon was able to insert himself in time for the second part of the rites, which was being replicated in six other historic sites in Metro Manila and in various parts across the country and in Philippine embassies and missions abroad.

The sprightly, bombastic tourism secretary assisted the President as she laid the wreath at the Rizal Monument.

As the President, Gordon and Villanueva walked toward the monument, Mr. Arroyo, Roco and Interior Secretary Jose Lina followed. The three were stopped by Malacañang protocol chief Jorge Reyes.

Parade

In the afternoon, a People's Parade was held at the Quirino Grandstand.

ENJOYING the short, snappy and colorful parade from the Quirino Grandstand are Vice President Guingona, President Macapagal, Mike Arroyo and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon. JOAN BONDOC

The crowd witnessed a relatively short parade, lasting just 90 minutes from 4 p.m. to early evening, in time for a 20-minute fireworks display over Manila Bay.

At the Pinaglabanan Shrine in San Juan, Senator-elect Edgardo Angara took the place of Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. as guest of honor in the Independence Day celebrations.

Traditionally, the Senate President delivers the keynote address at the Pinaglabanan Shrine, where the first battle between Spanish soldiers and the Katipuneros broke out in August 1896.

Some 150 Filipinos were killed in the "Battle of Pinaglabanan," which signaled the beginning of the general uprising against Spain.

Pimentel could not attend the Pinaglabanan rites because he was in the United Sates on official business.

At the Barasoain Church in Malolos, Bulacan, outgoing Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. graced the Independence Day celebrations.

"We remain in shackles because of the division among Filipinos and the lack of unity in the task of steering our country out of poverty," Belmonte, the mayor-elect of Quezon City, said in Filipino.

Beauty queen

In Baguio City, the few residents who lined up the sidewalks to watch the Independence Day parade were taken aback by a waving 2001 Binibining Pilipinas-Universe Zorayda Ruth Andam, who joined more than 3,000 government workers and civic leaders.

Andam, who was made up in full beauty pageant regalia complete with a tiara, stood gracefully aboard a red sports car in the middle of the parade.

But the parade's audience had a hard time recognizing Andam.

Former Benguet Gov. Jaime Panganiban, from the sidewalk, kept asking his fellow spectators: "She is beautiful, but I can't place her name. Who is she again?"

The Baguio-born Andam was recently honored by the Baguio City National High School as one of its outstanding alumni.

In Manila, only around 7,000 people came to line the front end of the Quirino Grandstand grounds to witness the parade.

The parade portrayed what the country could become in the new millennium—a self-sufficient nation.

"The Filipino can be first again. That is the message of the parade," Gordon said.

"We have always been first in Southeast Asia in the first half of the 20th century. First in the region, first in politics and first in the economy. We can regain that position in the new millennium," he said.

As in previous Independence Day parades, the audience was treated to a marching dance that featured the country's struggle and eventual independence from Spain.

There were marching contingents from the Armed Forces. Conspicuously absent were the tanks and armored personnel carriers that wowed the crowd last year and during the centennial of the country's independence in 1998.

Then came the contingents from the various government agencies. ***With reports from Agnes Donato in Manila and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Aguinaldo, aide killed in ambush

(From page A1)

in Barangay Centro here at 7:20 p.m. Tuesday.

Police said Aguinaldo died at about 9 p.m. while undergoing treatment at the St. Paul Hospital here for bullet wounds in the head, nape and back.

His aide, SPO1 Joey Garro, died while being taken to the People's Emergency Hospital here.

The two were attacked in an alley leading to the congressman's rented apartment on Magallanes Street. They reportedly came from the birthday party of Aguinaldo's wife Lerma in Barangay Libag, east of this city.

Reports also said a bystander, identified as Amelia Malana Soriano, was hit by a stray bullet in the left arm and was taken to a hospital.

Chief Supt. Dominador Resos Jr., Cagayan Valley police director, said Aguinaldo's political rivals and communist rebels operating in the province could be behind the attack.

Aguinaldo was a ranking member of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM), which staged a coup attempt that led to Edsa People Power Revolt and the downfall of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

He was a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1972 and served as a military intelligence officer during the martial law regime.

He served for three terms as Cagayan governor, from 1988 to 1998, and won a term as congressman of the third district of Cagayan in 1998.

During the May 14 elections, however, Aguinaldo lost in his reelection bid to a returning congressman, Manuel Mamba. But Aguinaldo filed a protest case in the House of Representatives' Electoral Tribunal seeking Mamba's disqualification.

Aguinaldo was a member of the 11th Congress' committees on cooperative development, agriculture, food and fisheries, national defense, natural resources, public order and security and public works and highways.

After his graduation from the PMA in 1972, he was commissioned second lieutenant of the Philippine Constabulary and was assigned at the First PC Zone in Camp Olivas, Pampanga.

He served as commander of the anti-insurgency Task Force Kappia of the Northern Luzon Command in 1987 and served as PC commander of Cagayan from 1986 to 1987. He headed several PC offices in Camp Crame from 1972 to 1986.

Aguinaldo finished his elementary education at the Ilocos Norte Normal Laboratory in 1958. He graduated from the Ilocos Norte National High School in 1962.

Aguinaldo was also among the military officers suspected to be involved in the 1989 failed coup attempt against then President Corazon Aquino.

One family's fear, loathing for the Abu Sayyaf

(From page A1)

ing Sipadan hostage, Roland Ullah.

Military operations in Sulu were going on full blast against the kidnappers.

Treachery

Commander Benjie appeared to agree to the request of the Dahim family. The Abu Sayyaf leader shook the hand of Narjima's uncle, Norzam. Then, he shot him.

Norzam fired back. He came close to strangling Habib. In the fierceness of their encounter, Norzam and Benjie were killed, Narjima recalled.

The ensuing commotion, Narjima said, gave her father barely enough time to take his family to safety in a house nearby. While he was away, Narjima's cousin, Lim Salem, faced the other two bandits.

With a *barong* (sharp bolo) and an M-14 rifle, Narjima's father, Haji Abdul, rushed back to rescue Salem, killing the two intruders. But they themselves were fatally shot.

These days, strangers, apparently on a mission to kill the surviving Dahim family, have followed them to this city, according to Narjima.

She said Abu Sayyaf men had warned her family that they would get back at them.

Living up to the valorous deeds of their menfolk, the Dahim family has called on their relatives in Maimbung to fight the "evil" of the Abu Sayyaf. It's become like a family crusade.

"My father did not die in vain. He was martyred in his fight against the Abu Sayyaf. Maimbung has since been liberated from the Abu Sayyaf," one of Narjima's siblings told the INQUIRER in Tausug.

2 bandits killed . . .

(From page A1)

rines had been called in to augment the two brigades of the Philippine Army in the province.

Marine Commandant Maj. Gen. Librado Ladia welcomed the announcement, saying that the Marines were familiar with the people and the terrain of the province.

"We grew there, honed our skills there, lived there ever since and we should have been there always," he said.

A Marine company of less than 100 troops was sent to Lamitan, Basilan, to reinforce Army soldiers, who cornered the Abu Sayyaf and their hostages at a local hospital on June 2, according to Ladia.

But the bandits had already slipped out of the military cordon before the Marines and the bulk of Army reinforcements had arrived in Lamitan, according to Ladia.

"The Marines would have made a difference," he said.

The military has been criticized for supposedly bungling the Lamitan operation, a condition made worse when the Abu Sayyaf struck again Monday in the town of Lantawan and seized 15 more hostages.

In his regular briefing yesterday, Adan said Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva had called for the deployment of more troops in Basilan.

"One or two battalions were sent there as ordered by the Chief of Staff but we will not mention the units where they are coming from," Adan said.

Adan may be referring to the two Marine battalions sent to Basilan.

Military officials, including Ladia, could not tell which Marine units were involved.

Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta said the Marines would be attached to either the 103rd or 102nd Infantry Brigades of the Army in Basilan.

A matter of time

Defending the Army, which came under fire for the botched Lamitan operation, Mabanta said it was only a matter of time before the Army could "show what it's really made up."

"This was just a glitch," Mabanta said. "We may have faltered but believe me we will be back."

The Marines were pulled out of Basilan between 1995 and 1996 following allegations of unlawful activities like illegal logging and charges that then Marine Gen. Guillermo Ruiz was associated with the Abu Sayyaf.

"But it was not General Ruiz who created the Abu Sayyaf," Ladia said.

With a standing force of less than 10,000 the Marines are the smallest unit in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. They pride themselves as "the few, the proud."

In his briefing, Adan defended the military against criticisms that it had employed the wrong strategy in Basilan by relying on massed troop movements instead of intensive combat patrols.

"This is not true that we have a mass concentration of troops. It may just be an image projected by media based on the style of reporting. Our troops are actually conducting patrols," Adan said.

"This is guerrilla warfare. They (observers) say they want commando-type operations but we are already doing that," he added. Mabanta also said: "Watch out for the Army in the next few days."

A bloody 'gift' from Abu

(From page A1)

as it is cowardly," she added.

In his reply on behalf of the diplomatic corps, Archbishop Antonio Franco, the Vatican's envoy to Manila, condemned the reported beheading.

"We are sincerely sympathetic, and we share also the indignation for the late information about the crisis of the hostages in Basilan," he said.

After the reception, US Charge d'Affaires Michael Malinowski read a statement to reporters that said: "The murder of an innocent person is a cowardly act. We condemn in the strongest possible terms this reported action.

"We hold the Abu Sayyaf responsible for the safety and welfare of all of the people it is holding.

"We call for the safe, immediate and unconditional release of the innocent persons being held."

Malinowski did not respond to questions from reporters and left Malacañang after conferring with some of his fellow diplomats.

Bluffing

Government troops are now searching for Sobero's body.

"We are still trying to confirm the report," Col. Danilo Servando, spokesperson of the Southern Command, said at a news conference in Zamboanga City.

"Our troops have fanned out in the area of Tuburan in search of the body," he said.

But in Manila, Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, spokesperson of the Armed Forces, said Sabaya could have been bluffing.

"His claims are not always true, and we would like to believe that Sobero is still alive. This is a claim that has yet to be verified from other sources," Adan said.

According to Adan, Sabaya has lied before. He cited Sabaya's earlier claim that the bandits and the 20 hostages taken May 27 from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan had split into two groups and landed separately in Sulu and Basilan, when they were actually still at sea between Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi and the Sulu archipelago.

Still, Adan said, Sabaya would pay heavily if the supposed beheading were proven true.

He described Sabaya as a "mere bandit and known liar."

"This gives us a picture of a deranged man who claims to be fighting for his homeland. He is a beast trying to appear like a local hero," Adan said.

Sabaya did not say when the supposed beheading took place.

He said he and his cohorts decided to behead Sobero because of the government's refusal to allow Sairin Karno to serve as negotiator, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's condemnation of the Abu Sayyaf, and continued military operations against the group.

"*Pinutol na namin ang* (We've terminated the) negotiations," Sabaya said, adding that he would call RMN again after they had beheaded other hostages.

He also said they had a film of Sobero's execution and would send it to the military when the roadblocks in Basilan had been lifted.

He warned the government against testing his group's capability for beheading, saying it had done this before.

Last year, the Abu Sayyaf beheaded two of its hostages as a "birthday gift" for then President Joseph Estrada.

"*Pag sinabi namin, gagawin namin* (If we say it, we'll do it)," he said.

Sabaya also said they would go after the *ulama*, Muslim religious leaders, for saying that the Abu Sayyaf's activities were "against Islam."

He said that while it was the *ulama* who should have waged the war against "oppressors and nonbelievers," they themselves had become "puppets" of the government.

"One day we will also cut off their heads," he said.

Ghoulish

The President told the diplomatic corps that with the supposed beheading, the Abu Sayyaf had "trampled" on all values of humanity.

"The reported murder of Mr. Sobero only strengthens our resolve to decimate once and for all this cold-blooded bandit group," she said, adding:

"Sabaya's statements—that the beheading of Sobero is a gift to our government on the occasion of our Independence Day celebration, that our troops should quickly look for the headless body before it is eaten by dogs, that they did the dastardly act to prove that they are not kids making empty threats—underline the ghoulishness and viciousness of the Abu Sayyaf."

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon said both the Philippine and US governments had pledged to see the end of the Abu Sayyaf.

"These are twisted minds," Gordon said of the bandits. "You're not going to let yourself be dragged down by twisted people. You don't want to wrestle with pigs. Pigs love the mud and the clay. We don't."

He said it was "just a matter of time" for the Abu Sayyaf.

"Even their brother Muslims are against them. Islam does not teach people to kill, rape, murder and kidnap children. And so they are a pariah, and they are not going to get away with it like many terrorists," he said.

Gordon said the President had reassured the various heads of state that the Philippine government had a "firm and unequivocal policy" of not paying ransom to and intensifying the military operations against the bandits.

"They can hide but they cannot forever hide, and they will be removed from the face of the earth," he said.

The communist-led National Democratic Front, which is currently holding peace talks with the government in Oslo, Norway, said it "disapproves" of the Abu Sayyaf's activities.

But NDF chief negotiator Luis Jalandoni said the Abu Sayyaf had become the "Frankenstein" of the US and Philippine governments.

"This group was created with the assistance of the Philippine military, and Senate President Aquilino Pimentel said in a speech that the (US) Central Intelligence Agency also had a hand here. So the Abu Sayyaf has become their Frankenstein," Jalandoni told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He said the Abu Sayyaf's "unprincipled act of putting the lives of civilians in danger" had also given the military an excuse to mount attacks in Moro communities in Mindanao.

"The Abu Sayyaf is giving the United States an excuse to intervene in our affairs. This is very bad," he said.

Jalandoni also said the Estrada administration was partly liable because it allowed the payment of ransom for the release of the hostages taken from Sipadan, Malaysia, last year.

Merciless

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines issued a statement appealing to the Abu Sayyaf to release its hostages.

"Every decent human being, believer in the Almighty God or not, has condemned your criminal actions. You have taken innocent victims as hostages, you have mercilessly killed some of them," the CBCP said.

"We therefore appeal to you in the strongest possible way—follow the precepts of your own religion. Release all your hostages, especially the children," it said.

The CBCP also warned the Abu Sayyaf that using "inhuman and criminal means" would not lead them to their aim of setting up an independent Islamic state in the South.

In predominantly Muslim Basilan, Catholic priests said they supported the government's "all-out war" policy against the Abu Sayyaf.

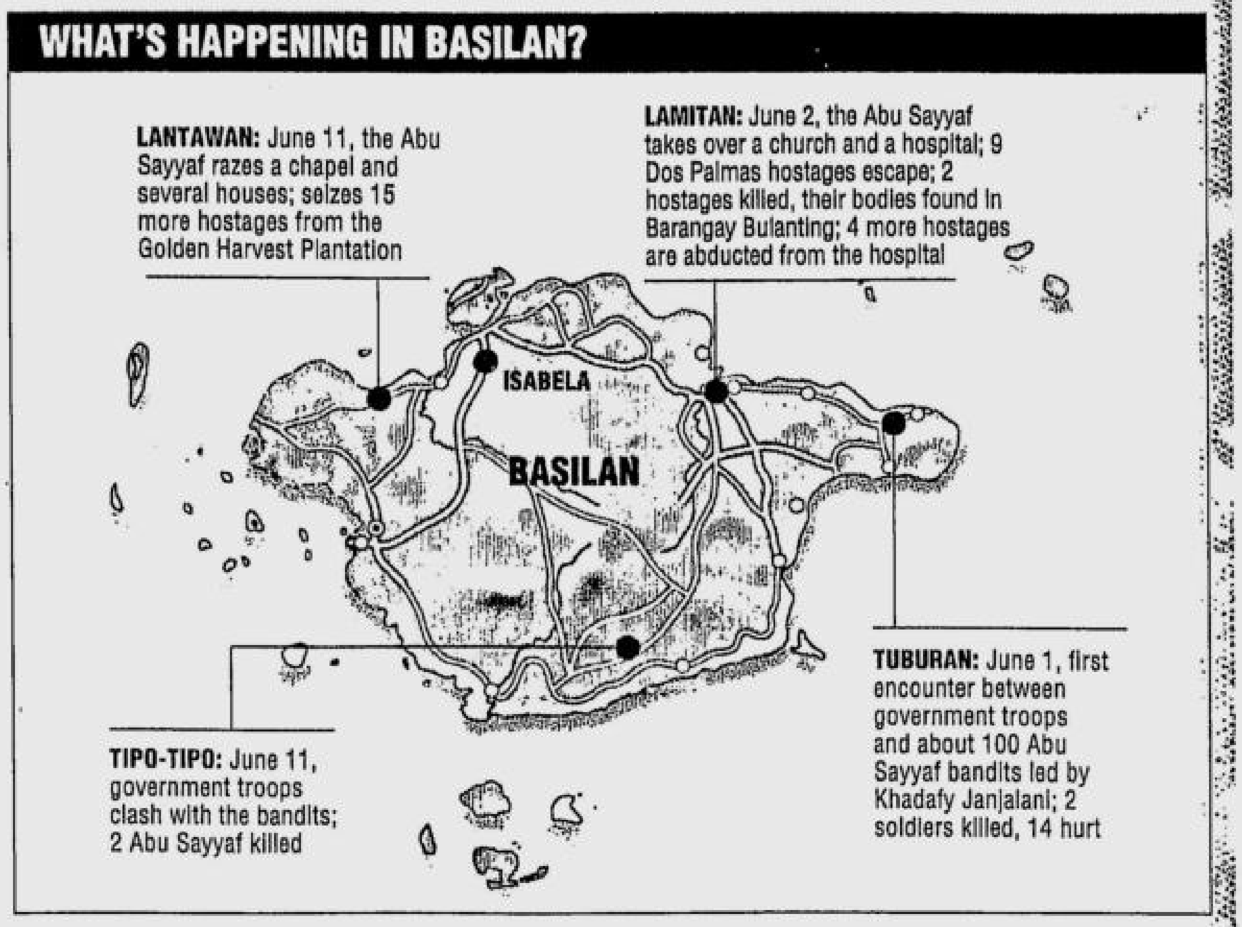
"In light of the humiliating fiasco, we strongly demand that the military work for competence in all areas of military operations—from the war room to the field and vice versa," the prelature of Isabela said in a statement.

"The Abu Sayyaf's evil presence has wrought colossal destruction to life and property," the prelature said, labeling the group as "barbaric, bloodthirsty bandits and terrorists."

Sobero is among the three Americans and 17 Filipinos snatched by the Abu Sayyaf from the Dos Palmas resort. Nine Filipinos have since been rescued, and two killed by the bandits.

But the Abu Sayyaf also snatched last week four hospital staff during a raid in Lamitan, and 15 plantation workers on Monday. ***With reports from Juliet L. Javellana, Carlito Pablo, AFP***

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN BASILAN?


LANTAWAN: June 11, the Abu Sayyaf razes a chapel and several houses; seizes 15 more hostages from the Golden Harvest Plantation
LAMITAN: June 2, the Abu Sayyaf takes over a church and a hospital; 9 Dos Palmas hostages escape; 2 hostages killed, their bodies found in Barangay Bulanting; 4 more hostages are abducted from the hospital
ISABELA
BASILAN
TIPO-TIPO: June 11, government troops clash with the bandits; 2 Abu Sayyaf killed
TUBURAN: June 1, first encounter between government troops and about 100 Abu Sayyaf bandits led by Khadafy Janjalani; 2 soldiers killed, 14 hurt

Mahathir . . .

(From page A1)

In Manila, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the Philippine government would not press Kuala Lumpur on Sairin's participation.

"If they will not allow it, that's the end of the story," Golez said.

Ms Macapagal held a series of emergency meetings with officials of her Cabinet, the military and police in between three events connected to the celebration of the Philippines' 103rd Independence Day.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon and other Cabinet officials refused to confirm that a "special Cabinet meeting" was set to be held with the President in Palawan late yesterday.

"I will not comment on that now," Gordon said after the traditional *vin d' honneur* hosted by the President for the diplomatic community in Malacañang at noon.

The President attended the civic-military parade at the Quirino Grandstand from 3 to 5 p.m., where she appealed for unity and expressed hope that Sobero's reported killing was not true.

After leading the 7 a.m. flag-raising ceremony at the Rizal Park, she skipped the traditional Manila Hotel breakfast and returned to the Palace to meet with military, police and Cabinet officials.

US Charge d' Affaires Michael Malinowski was among the diplomats whom the President individually received at the Palace reception before she led the Independence Day toast.

Yusuf

In Kuala Lumpur, businessman Yusuf Hamdan, who was to assist in the negotiations along with Sairin, expressed shock at Sabaya's claim of a beheading.

Yusuf said that if the claim were true, he and Sairin would not mediate in the hostage crisis.

"I was very upset when I heard the news. I have asked Radio Mindanao Network to relay a message to the Abu Sayyaf to call me to confirm the news," Yusuf told Agence France Presse.

"How can we mediate when you (Abu Sayyaf) do not give us a chance to talk? Why should we go if they do not honor their words?" he said.

On Monday, Yusuf said he had spoken to Sabaya by mobile phone and asked that the threat to behead the three American hostages not be carried out.

"I told him it is an inhuman act. Please, as Muslims it is against our religion to do it," Yusuf said.

Last year, Sairin and Yusuf, both from the eastern state of Sabah, helped mediate in the release of Europeans and Malaysians abducted by the Abu Sayyaf from Sipadan island.

Yusuf said they were concerned about their own safety now. "Next time they will chop off our heads," he said.

Sairin, a former member of Malaysia's upper house of Parliament, heads the ruling United Malays National Organization in Sabah.

Both Malaysians said Monday they were willing to act as mediators if their government authorized them to do so.

Sairin said he wanted a safety guarantee from the Philippine government.

Peaceful means

In Davao City, lawyer Ramon Edison Batacan, president of the local chapter of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, said that with her shift to negotiations, the President was on the right track for a peaceful end to the hostage crisis.

"There is no way to solve the problem with the Abu Sayyaf but through peaceful means. The solution is not merely military," Batacan said.

But Davao City administrator Nestor Ledesma noted the "telltale shift in position."

"We can still recall the tough words of the President in addressing the bandits when they were cornered in Lamitan (Basilan)," Ledesma said.

"She said '*Isang bala lang kayo* (You're worth only one bullet).' Now it appears we will be unable to support our tough stance," he said.

Ledesma pointed out that in the art of negotiation, one should operate from a fundamental position of strength.

"Unfortunately, right now, I don't think the Philippine government is negotiating from the position of strength. The Abu Sayyaf is now dictating its own terms," he said.

Ledesma said this was "a mockery" of the military, "which really tried its best to get" the bandits.

"Now it appears that the Abu Sayyaf is getting the upper hand," he said. ***Reports from Juliet L. Javellana in Manila; Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AP; AFP***

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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

World chess qualifying list-up on

REGISTRATION is now open for an elimination tournament among top local players who will vie for the right to represent the country in the World Chess Qualifying Championship from Aug. 19-18. For details, call tel. 435-1114 and telefax 435-1113, or IA Gene Poliarco (0919-825-2524) and NA Willy Abalos (0919-8395283).

PBL FINALS REPEAT

Shark, Welcoat arrange showdown

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE LITTLE-KNOWN heroes made the biggest impact as Shark Energy Drink fashioned out a stirring 96-93 triple overtime victory over GIV Beauty Soap and barged into the PBL Chairman's Cup finals last night at the Makati Coliseum.

A week after getting criticized for its uninspired stand against GIV, Shark redeemed itself with a ferocious stand down the stretch which saw the Power Boosters rise from the grave, not just once but thrice, in a thriller of a game which lasted four tiring hours.

In the second game, Welcoat Paints arranged a repeat best-of-seven showdown for the title against Shark with a 72-58 triumph over Ana Freezers. Game One starts tomorrow at 5:30 p.m.

Ren Ren Ritualo, Eugene Tan and Jojo Manalo banged in triples as the Paintmasters erased an early 19-point deficit to complete their masterful comeback against the Freezer Kings.

Rolly Basilides, an ex-Laguna Laker, newly crowned slam dunk champion MC Caceres, bench warmer Ken Gumpenberger and lanky Earvin Sotto stole the limelight from their heralded teammates as they sank the baskets which completed GIV's misery.

The GIV bench was already exchanging high fives when the 6-foot-3 Basilides buried a crunching triple which forced the first overtime, 73-73. Then, it was the turn of Ervin Sotto to essay the hero's role with another triple which led to the second extension, 79-79.

Again, the Power Boosters, thanks to the heady plays of Nani Epondulan and Bacani, went ahead in the third period, 83-79. Basilides, however, took the cudgels from the shaky Chester Tolomia, and scored with an undergoal stab before Gumpenberger bucked a jeering crowd to sink two gift shots, 83-83, for the third overtime.

Basilides then poured seven points as Shark took a 90-83 lead, but GIV refused to cramble. The cramp-stricken Bacani even gave GIV a 93-92 advantage, but Sotto's 10-footer triggered Shark's fiery windup.

"We redeemed our pride tonight," said Shark mentor Leo Austria.

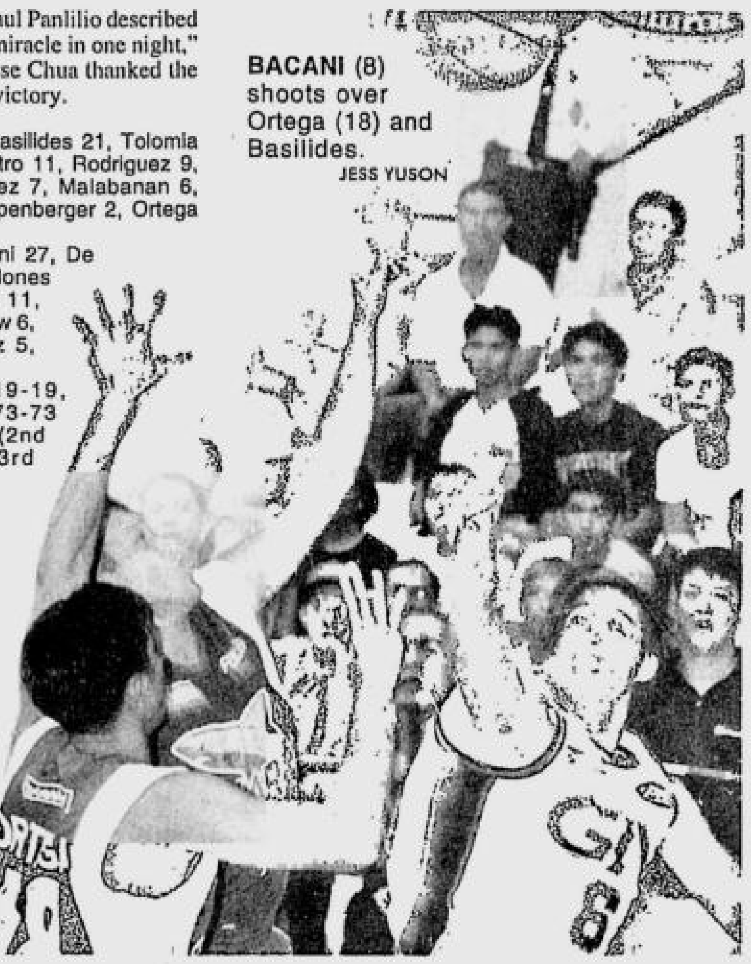
Team owner Raul Panlilio described the win as "triple miracle in one night," while manager Jesse Chua thanked the Almighty for the victory.

Scores:

SHARK 96—Basilides 21, Tolomia 14, Sotto 12, Castro 11, Rodriguez 9, Caceres 7, Ybañez 7, Malabanan 6, Robinson 6, Gumpenberger 2, Ortega 1, Balares 0.

GIV 93—Bacani 27, De la Cuesta 14, Billones 13, Legaspi 11, Epondulan 7, Kalaw 6, Gumatay 6, Sanz 5, Calo 4, Roldan 0,

Quarters: 19-19, 34-41, 53-52, 73-73 (Ist OT), 79-79 (2nd OT), 83-83 (3rd OT), 96-93.



BACANI (8) shoots over Ortega (18) and Basilides.
JESS YUSON

Puyat to snub polls

GONZALO "Lito" Puyat, president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines-sanctioned by the Philippine Olympic Committee, said submitting himself to the June 20 elections would be tantamount to allowing government intervention reign over Philippine sports.

"It could set a bad precedent, an avalanche of national sports associations going to court whenever the POC rules against their will," Puyat said during yesterday's PSA Forum.

He explained that once the POC allows the Manila RTC to intervene with the affairs of the BAP, the other NSAs will follow suit and automatically seek redress from the courts to get a favorable decision.

Batangas Blades seek 3-0 slate

GAMES TODAY (San Juan Gym)
3:00 p.m.—Batangas vs Nueva Ecija
5:30 p.m.—Laguna vs San Juan

FOR LBC Batangas Blades coach Nash Racela, there's no such thing as a light assignment in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase.

That's why he cautions his wards not to get complacent when they tangle with the Nueva Ecija Patriots at 3 p.m. today at the San Juan Gym.

Showing signs of jelling, the Blades have won their first two games and are again favored over the Patriots due to their perceived edge in firepower and manpower.

The Patriots, rated anywhere from sixth to last in the eight-team field, were routed by the Andok's San Juan Knights, 110-71, in their first game.

Racela said the Patriots can't be underestimated as he cited the case of lowly regarded Davao and Socsargen, which put up a tough fight before bowing to Negros, 93-91, on Sunday.

The Lakers tangle with the reigning national titlists Andok's San Juan Knights at 5:30 p.m.Right after the game, the Lakers will be leaving for Saudi Arabia to compete in a three-game goodwill series with the Saudi National Team and the Riyadh Filipino Community Team.

The invitation from the Saudi Arabian Basketball Federation was coursed to Basketball Association of the Philippines president Quinteliano Literal and was coursed through the Department of Foreign Affairs.

To be held in Riyadh and Jeddah, the games will be held from June 14-18 under the auspices of the Embassy of the Saudi Presidency for Youth Welfare and Sports presided by HRH Prince Sultan bin Fahd bin Abdul Aziz. *Roy Luarca*

Triathletes vs kayakers

TRIATHLON athletes test the mettle of kayakers when the second leg of the two-day Globe Handy Phone Z-Games Cross Training Challenge takes place this weekend at the activity center of the Alabang Town Center In Alabang.

In the first leg held at the Glorietta in Makati, the Rexona-triathlon team barely edged the members of the Philippine kayak-canoe team by 15 seconds with triathletes Bien Balingbing and Bing Alto emerging individual champions, beating kayakers Robert Logan and Alejandra Orola in the individual finals event.

Both teams have vowed to do even better in the second leg with national women's triathlon champion, Marissa Nagtalon, fresh from her victory in the recent Subic International Triathlon, joining the Rexona-backed triathlon team in this contest of athleticism, strength, flexibility, and endurance.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Feast of Diamond 2. King Cobra 3. Ocean Magic 4. Rose and Toy
Race 2—1. Puzzling Friend 2. Perfect Lyza 3. She's So Sure 4. Gambatte
Race 3—1. Best Gift 2. River Bandit 3. Always Florence 4. Pen Tristram 5. Morning Nell
Race 4—1. Prince of Africa 2. Cover Story 3. Extra Strength 4. Rainmaker
Race 5—1. Slew's Pleasure 2. Count Me In 3. Petitioner 4. Marvelous Jay
Race 6—1. Magic Fingers 2. Dial Tone 3. Filthy Rich 4. Timber Nectar 5. Katya
Race 7—1. Perry's Will 2. Ariana's Pride 3. Steel Wheel 4. Stately Emblem 5. Harvest Green
Race 8—1. Prince Armstrong 2. Suterian Era 3. Bravada 4. Tellmetonight 5. Terminal Bound

Beermen, Aces dispute solo lead today

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PBA STANDINGS

	W	L
Alaska	2	0
SMB	2	0
Ginebra	1	1
Mobiline	1	1
Red Bull	1	1
Shell	1	1
Sta. Lucia	1	1
Tanduay	1	1
Pop Cola	0	2
Purefoods	0	2

GAMES TODAY (Ynares Center)
5.15 p.m.—Shell vs Pop Cola
7:30 p.m.—Alaska vs SMB

UNBEATEN teams San Miguel Beer and Alaska Milk decide which team gets to be the solo leader when they cross paths today in the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

History is on San Miguel's side as it won its first this season - an 85-75 rout in the All-Filipino Cup in Bago City. The Beermen have also won five of their six games held in Ynares as against the Aces' 1-of-4 record in Antipolo dating back last season.

But while the Beermen clearly got the edge man-for-man, the Aces have a flashier import in Terrance Badgett, who is averaging 33 points per game and creating the offensive impact the Aces sorely needed.

Badgett takes off the scoring load from Ali Peek and Kenneth Duremdes aside from contributing in other departments like rebounding (10 per game), assists (3), and shotblocks (1)

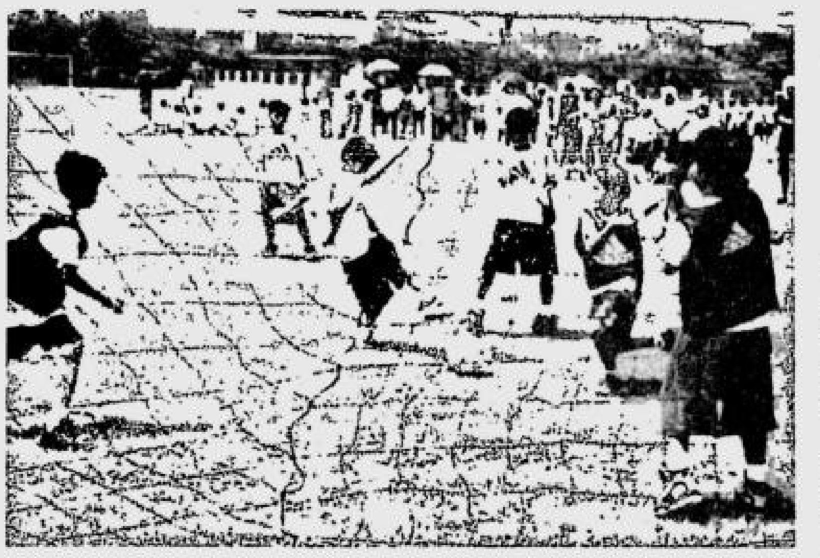
Also, Peek is norming 20 points, 11.5 rebounds, two assists and 2.5 blocks, while Duremdes makes 14 points, five assists and four rebounds per night during Alaska win over Batang Red Bull and Pop Cola.

However, Alaska will have its hands full competing against a complete team like San Miguel, whose offense is anchored on versatile reinforcement Nate Johnson.

Johnson, a former Louisville standout, has won Best Player of the game awards in the Beermen's victories over Purefoods and Shell where he averaged 29.5 points, 16 rebounds, 2.5 assists, two steals and three blocks.

It was added boost for a team which already got major offensive threats like Danny Ildefonso and Danny Seigle, who are norming 18 and 13 points, respectively, that allowed SMB to post an average winning margin of 14 points.

Pop Cola tries to break into the win column when it goes against skidding Shell in the first game at 5:15 p.m.



FOOTBALL ACTION

Striker Jem Bryan V. Juson (center) of Sta. Cruz Elementary School in Bulacan unleashes a shot past three defenders for a goal during the Governor's Cup of Bulacan recently at the Malolos Sports Complex Stadium in Malolos. Close to 40 elementary school teams participated in the competition organized as part of Kasibulan 612, the grassroots development program of the Philippine Football Federation sponsored by Milo and Adidas.

O'Neal to Mutombo: 'Play me, challenge me'

PHILADELPHIA—"Play me."

A day after accusing Dikembe Mutombo of "flopping and crying every time I back him down," Lakers center Shaquille O'Neal issued that concise message to his Philadelphia counterpart.

O'Neal was ready Monday when the subject of Mutombo, the NBA's defensive player of the year this season, was broached by reporters.

"Good, I don't have to repeat myself," O'Neal said when told Mutombo had taken his remarks following Game 3 of the NBA Finals as a challenge. "I said what I said and I meant what I said. So, hey, good.

"Challenge me. Treat me like a game of checkers and play me. I'm allowed to pivot, I'm allowed to play strong, I'm allowed to be powerful. That's what I've been doing my whole career and I'm not going to change.

"So, you know, just play me. Treat me like Sega and play me."

O'NEAL

MUTOMBO

With the Lakers leading 86-84 Sunday night, O'Neal was called for an offensive foul on Mutombo, his sixth, to put him on the bench with 2:21 remaining.

Meanwhile, for the third time in a month, the Philadelphia 76ers find themselves trailing 2-1 in a playoff series. Anybody want to write 'em off as dead again?

"It's still the same thing. People are still questioning what this team is capable of doing," Aaron McKie said Monday. "When does it come to a point when you say this team is good?"

Just being good hasn't been good enough to get the 76ers past the Los Angeles Lakers in the last two games of the NBA Finals.

Bigger, better 25th Milo Marathon on June 24

THE SPORT of running in the Philippines marks milestone as the 25th National Milo Marathon welcomes runners and spectators alike with an unprecedented program of activities that will be bigger, better and younger.

Bigger because it will feature two full marathons, better because it will offer more prizes and fun, and younger because it will draw greater numbers of students and schools.

The 25th National Milo Marathon, the most successful event of its kind in the country held since 1974, was launched recently by corporate sponsor Nestlé Philippines Inc. led by vice president for coffee and beverages Andrew H. Bramston, Milo sports executive Conrado C. Jaime Jr., and Milo brand manager Juan Miguel Alvarez.

The official outfitter of the 25th National Milo Marathon is Adidas.

For the first time, the country's most prestigious and longest existing marathon starts with a full 42.195-kilometer race in the Metro Manila leg to be held on June 24.

Holding a full-length race both at the kick-off and the finals of the Milo Marathon this year, the Nestle executives said, is a fitting way to commemorate the event's quarter-century anniversary, even as this responds to a widespread clamor from the local running community.

The 25th Milo Marathon, to be held in 12 venues nationwide, will have the following race categories: the 3km Kiddie Run; the 5km fun run; the 10km run; and the 42.1 95km full marathon in the kick-off and the finals.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

MOTOR SPORTS: Race Day—Canadian Grand Prix at 9 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
2001 F1 World Championships - Canadian Grand Prix at 9:45 (r) on Star Sports
Chequered Flag—Canadian Grand Prix at midnight (r) on Star Sports
GOLF: PGA Fedex St. Jude Classic, Third Round at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
LPGA Wegmans Rochester International, Final Round at 12 noon (r) on ESPN
U.S. Open Golf Championship Preview #2 at 10:30 p.m., 2000 Official Film at 11 p.m. on ESPN
TENNIS: Wimbledon Library Films - The Glory Years at 7 a.m. (r), Wimbledon Official Film 1995 at 8 p.m. on Star Sports
BASEBALL: NCAA College World Series - Game 8 at 7 a.m., Game 9 at midnight on ESPN
Baseball Max at 5 p.m. on ESPN
SNOOKER: Premier Snooker League 2001 at 10 a.m. (r) on ESPN
BOWLING: PBA Valley Lanes at 7:30 p.m. on ESPN
TRACK AND FIELD: Prefontaine Classic Highlights at 9 p.m. on ESPN

Remembering 'Jimmy'

WHAT CAN I SAY

Bebo Quiros

THE RACING industry stops for a moment every Triple Crown season to reflect on its history, its traditions, and its heroes, both equine and human. Last Sunday, the Philracom, in partnership with the Manila Jockey Club, held its annual homage to Jaime V. Ongpin. As Secretary of Finance of the fledgling Aquino Administration, "Jimmy" Ongpin helped create significant tax reforms that promoted unparalleled growth in sales and government revenues.

The Ramos administration, in a desire to equalize the playing field for all industries, withdrew the benefits that were being enjoyed by the racing industry during the Aquino years. The dip in government revenues were only compensated for by increased sales due to the proliferation of off-track betting centers that effectively enlarged the betting public sector.

It is important that Philracom chairman Benedicto K. Katigbak bring up this idea of tax reform to his good friend, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, and seek guidance on how to proceed. If Secretary Romulo can steer chairman Katigbak to the proper government agencies that will initiate the process of review, then perhaps the industry can revive the revenue drive that the late Secretary Ongpin saw fit to understand and promote. If chairman Katigbak can focus on just this goal for the remainder of his term, the racing industry will forever be grateful.

The contribution of Jimmy Ongpin, his vision and his courage, should not be confined to two minutes of remembrance every second Sunday of June. This industry, the horse owners, the race track operators, the Philracom as well as racing media, should,come together to push for tax reform. There will be no major investment, no major re-investment, without an overhaul of current tax laws. To come together for change is the best way for all of us to remember "Jimmy".

Breeder's prize

Accustomed as horse breeders have always been to be acknowledged during the awarding ceremonies of each and every leg of the annual Philracom Triple Crown, it came as no surprise to chairman Benedicto K. Katigbak that he would be showered with a barrage of complaints from even his closest of friends when no breeder's prize was given to the breeder of the winner of the Cojuangco Cup, the first leg of the series. On the occasion of a lunch we hosted commemorating the Chairman's birthday, Juanito "Johnny" Tionloc, breeder of Silver Story, winner of both the Cojuangco and Ongpin Cups, passionately expressed his disappointment. He did not hold back and mince words. "It isn't the money. Even a plaque would suffice. But recognize the breeder," Johnny said. He was quickly put in his place by the Chairman who promised that come the second leg, a breeder's prize would be provided to the breeder. Obviously, being the breeder of Silver Story, Johnny couldn't be more than pleased when prior to the race, chairman Katigbak publicly announced the restoration of the breeder's prize, not only for the Ongpin Cup but also for all subsequent Philracom races. Now if the Chairman can be convinced to give a prize retroactive to the first leg of the Triple Crown, Johnny will rest triply happy.

Many thanks

Many, many thanks to the Manila Jockey Club, Inc. for being great hosts. Many thanks to Atty. "Boy" Reyno, "Rev" Reverente, Mart Cepeda, Henry Kahn and Rudy Prado. We will personally campaign for this year's Philtobo Mitra Cup to be held at the MJCI as requested. That's a promise.

Alvarez wrestlers sparkle

GEN. Mariano Alvarez wrestling club collected six of the 10 gold medals at stake to clinch the team championship recently in the first leg of the Triangular Wrestling Tournament at the Metropolis Star Mall in Alabang, Muntinlupa City Sunday.

Antonio Dime's charges were most dominant in the cadets division (16-17 years) where Jayson Abaño, Mark Vincent Murillo, Arnel Tizon and Edward Yayong topped the 46kg, 50kg, 54kg and 58kg classes, respectively.

Rogelio Badiola of Las Piñas WC beat Ariel Nebrada in their 42kg matchup to prevent a GMA WC sweep.

In the schoolboys (14-15 years) of the tilt organized by the Wrestling Association of the Philippines headed by retired Army General Manuel Ribo with the support of Philippine Sports Commission and cooperation of Dream Square Theme Park & Resort, Las Piñas WC nipped GMA WC, three golds to two.

Elmer Paghubasan (38kg), Cris Maderaje (42kg), and Gerald Felizardo (53kg) emerged as gold medalists for Las Piñas WC while Aaron Gabriel (47kg) and Mark Lesterhuz (59kg) scored for GMA WC.

Milo Sporting World (Channel 13) and dzSR Sports Radio covered the tourney.

Sportsfest for street kids starts Saturday

ONE of the least privileged and overlooked sectors of society—the street children—will now have a sports competition it can call its own with the launching of the Palaro ng Batang Lansangan on Saturday at the Rizal Memorial track and field stadium.

Organized by the Philippine Sports Commission, Commissioner Cynthia Carrion announced during yesterday's PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn Manila that the program aims to channel the street kids into more productive pursuits and keep them out of mischief.

"The basic aim of this program is to keep these children off the streets. To give them something better to do and sports, as everyone knows, is one of the best ways to do it aside from the fact it also a good vehicle for character-building," said Carrion.

Carrion, who is in charge of sectoral sports and is organizing committee chairman of the event, added the sportsfest is also an expression of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's concern for the needs of the needy and underprivileged.

"President Arroyo has always had a soft spot for the poor. And the Palaro ng Batang Lansangan is an extension of her Ahon-Bayan program which she began while she was still Vice President and Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development," Carrion added.

"In fact," Carrion added, "President Arroyo herself will be the guest of honor during the formal launching of the program on Saturday at the Rizal Memorial track and field stadium."

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, she said, has also been invited to the kick-off rites and will light the ceremonial torch during the day-long event.

Among the events to be held on Saturday are football, swimming, relays and softball throwing, Carrion said.

A total of 17 cities and municipalities in Metro Manila, she said, will be sending close to 8,000 street children to the sportsfest on Saturday which will be staged with the help of Department of Interior and Local Government and the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

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Football sec gen dies in car crash

PHILIPPINE Football Federation secretary general Christopher Monfort was killed in a vehicular accident along Katipunan Avenue flyover in Quezon City around 11:30 p.m. Monday. He was 42.

Police said Monfort was heading toward Aurora Boulevard when his Kia Pride slammed into an electric post.

He was unconscious when brought to the Quirino Memorial Medical Center and died around 2 a.m. yesterday.

"He might have lost control," said SPO1 Marcelo Sabado, chief investigator of Central District Traffic Office Sector 3.

Sabado said witnesses claimed one of those who helped pull Monfort out of his vehicle was PBA player Alex Crisano, who was with two other Barangay Ginebra players.

"We lost a very good football man. The Philippine Football Federation would not be the same without him. He is the prime mover in so many things which, hopefully, other people can duplicate for the good of the sport," Hans-Peter Smit, former RP XI's assistant coach, told the INQUIRER.

Monfort is survived by his wife Gina and sons Carlos Alberto and Zico, whom he named after two Brazilian footbal greats.

His remains lie at the Ateneo de Manila High School chapel.

Internment will be on Saturday. *Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

World Pool League

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THROUGH the years, the Philippines has built a gilt-edged reputation of producing champion pool players and hosting widely successful international billiards tournaments. For this reason, Matchroom Sport Limited of Essex, England, has invited Philippine pool pioneer Puyat Sports to co-promote the World Pool League in Metro Manila this year. Promoters in Japan, Taiwan and South Korea are said to be aspiring to host the prestigious tournament, but Puyat Sports was given the first option because it was unarguably the moving spirit behind the enormous progress of billiards in the Philippines, aside from its close contact with international promoters and the country's renowned hospitality toward invited players. Billiards promotion, by the way, is a non-profit venture of Puyat Sports which promotes the sport mainly for the purpose of helping and developing its players.

It would be a good opportunity to hold the World Pool League here because it would take away the world's attention from the crises that beset our country at present. I understand Puyat Sports and Viva Vintage Television are eager to accept Matchroom Sport's offer, but they are reportedly still looking for financial support, perhaps from the government, to undertake the costly project.

Government agencies such as the Department of Tourism, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office would be ideal supporters of this international billiards blockbuster. And not forgetting, of course, the private sector headed no less by boss Danding Cojuangco of San Miguel Corp.

The World Pool League is an annual 9-ball tournament featuring the best eight pool pros from Europe, Asia and the United States. So far, it has been held only in Europe, with Warsaw, Poland, staging the tournament the past three years. Last year, fearless Francisco "Django" Bustamante placed second to Steve Knight of the United Kingdom, while in 1999 living legend Efren "Bata" Reyes finished second to Jim Rempe of the United States. If staged here, the star-studded tournament would bring to our shores for the first time Britain's snooker icon Steve Davis, who beat Bata Reyes in the World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales, last year, 9-8, after coming from behind, 2-8. It would also feature World Pool League defending champion Steve Knight, who, as stated earlier, defeated Bustamante, 7-1, in the finals last year.

Also in the fold are reigning World Pool champion Fong Pang-chao of Taiwan, flamboyant American Earl "The Pearl" Strickland or countryman Corey Deuel, the BCA (Billiards Congress of America) 9-Ball Open winner; the No. 1 player from Japan and our very own Reyes and Bustamante.

Matchroom Sport Limited is the British company that also promotes the Cardiff World Pool Championship which Bata Reyes won in 1999 and the World Tenpin Masters Championship which the fabled Paeng Nepomuceno won a record four times.

If finally staged here, the World Pool League will surely lift the spirits of Filipinos shaken by the prevailing political and economic hard times.

NCA finals tonight

THE 15-LEG NCA 7-Cock Derby ends tonight, while the keenly awaited World Slasher 8-Cock Derby begins on June 18, 20 and 22 at the Araneta Coliseum.

In today's four-cock finals, streaking PBRJ Binangonan of Ito Ynares and Boyboy Roa and Cat Stingers of Peping Cojuangco and longtime partner Esting Teopaco are leading the field by posting three straight wins early yesterday morning. Close behind with 2-1/2 points is RT 114 Geran Mapalad of Ruel Ricafort and Alex and Gerry Escalona.

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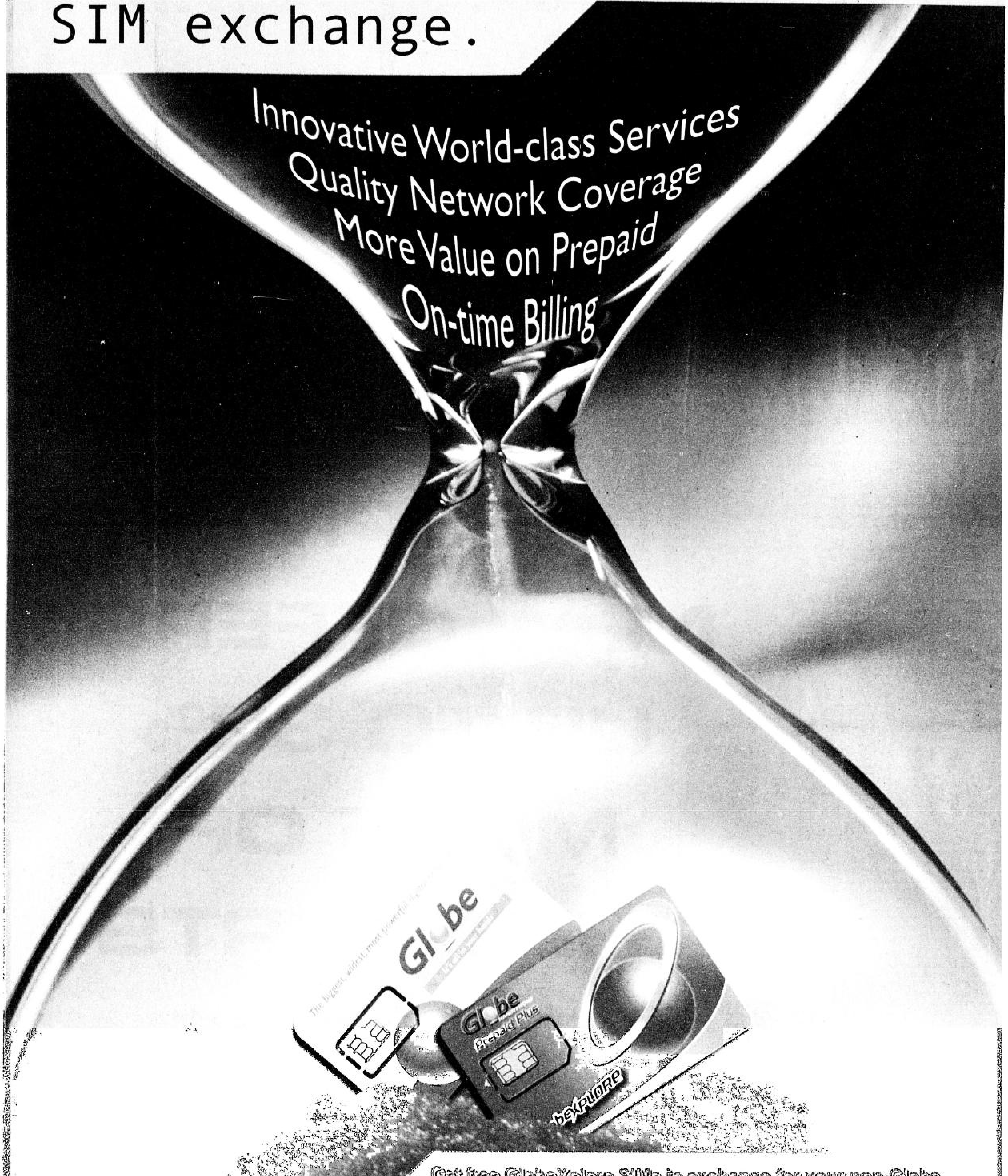
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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Councilor questions delay of P122-million Malabon hall project A22

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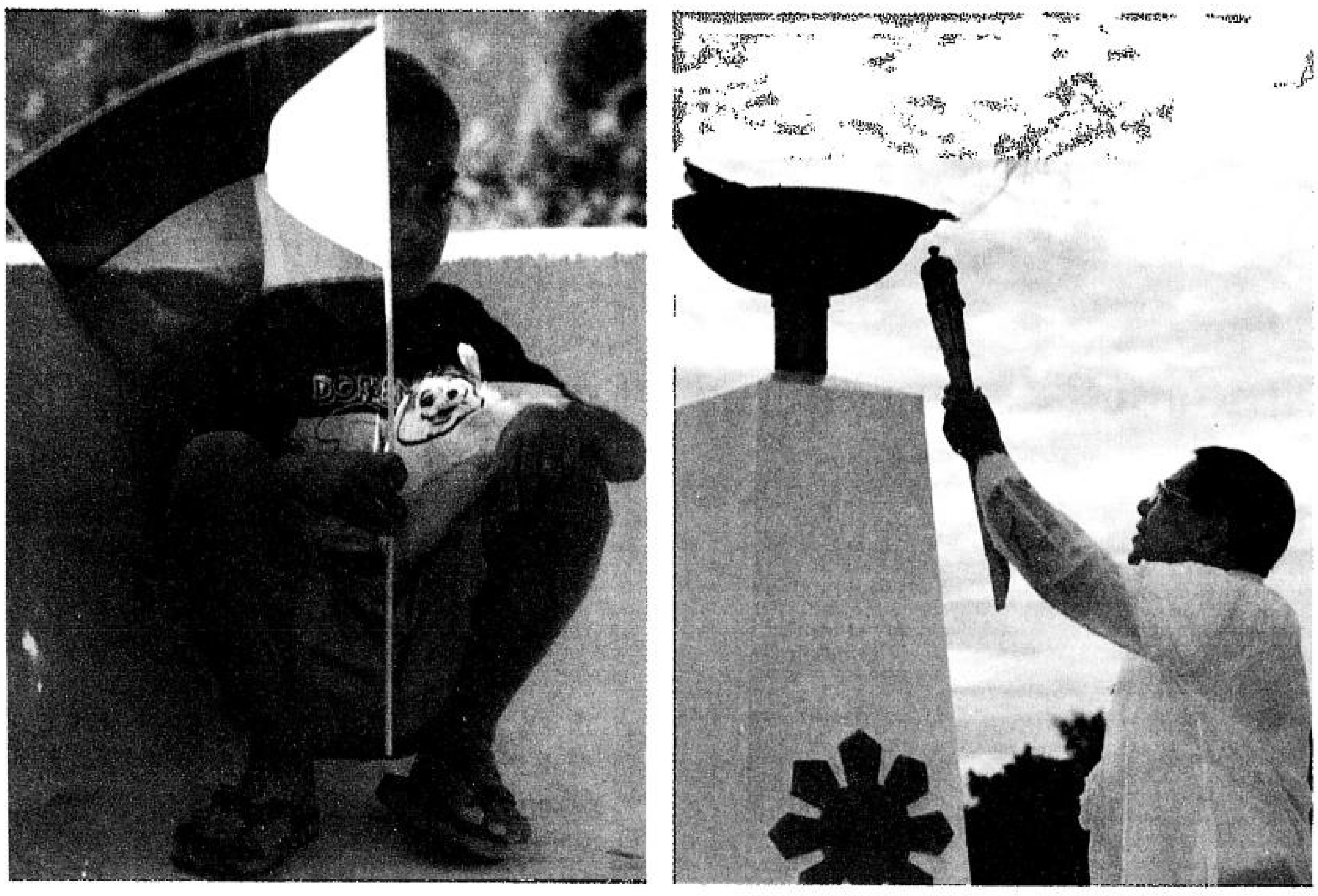
2 businesswomen slain by robbers



OTHER PLACES, OTHER RITES

A young, timid flag-waver watches June 12 festivities in Caloocan City, one of the first Metro Manila places to rise against deposed President Estrada. In San Juan, where the unseated President Estrada started his political reign, Sen. Edgardo Angara, who was his executive secretary, takes his place and lights the flame at the town's Pinaglabanan Shrine.

EDWIN BACASMAS, ERIK ARAZAS

By Philip C. Tubeza

TWO businesswomen—a widowed owner of a market stall and a sexagenarian owner of a car wash—died horribly in the hands of robbers in Quezon City.

The police identified the victims as widow Emily F. Montejo, 44, of 11-D Kasunduan Street, Barangay Commonwealth, and Enid Pacheco, 62, of 70 Road 1, Project 6.

Pacheco, owner of the Spic and Span car wash, was beaten up dead with a steel pipe allegedly by her wash boys who also made off with her day's earnings, said Senior Insp. Rudy Jaraza, chief of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit homicide section.

Montejo was shot in the head by one of six robbers who hit her store at the Katuparan market, also in Barangay Commonwealth, Jaraza said.

The six men also took Montejo's bag

2 BUSINESS/ A22

Wazzzzup?

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Cowboy Grill Arquiza St., Ermita	DECADE SOCIETY REPLICA/HEARTBEAT	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill Remedios St., Malate	GOALKEYS FEEDBACK	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎521.8143
Cowboy Grill Novaliches Q.C.	MAEGAN AGUILAR SWEETBLOOD/FAT 16	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎936.9757
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Jer's Real, Calamba, Laguna	ALTER EGO (FOR D' BOYS)	NO ENTRANCE NO CONSUMABLE
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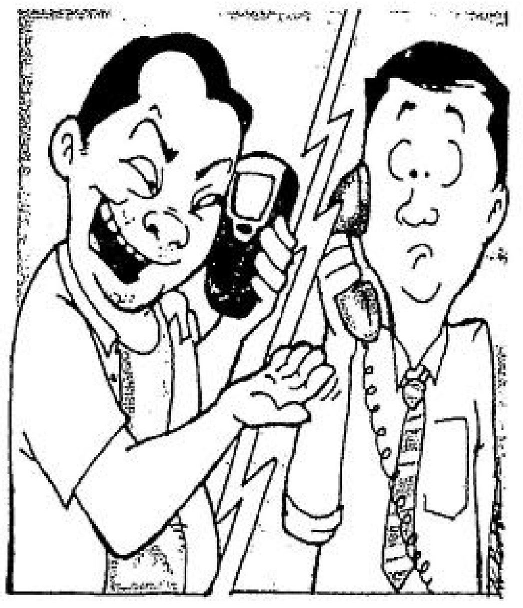

Cell phone 'kidnapped' for ransom

By Philip C. Tubeza

CELL PHONE-NAPPING?

When marketing officer Benjamin C. Garcia on Monday night left his Nokia 3210 cell phone in a taxi driven by Alberto L. Nunez, he thought he could get it back easily. The driver had assured him he would return it.

But yesterday, Nunez asked for P4,000 in exchange for Garcia's cell phone, police said.

Police arrested Nunez, 27, of Bagong Silangan in Caloocan City, and his companion, Ruel B. Espinosa, 19, of Pangarap Village, Caloocan City, during the pay-off, said investigator SPO1 Rodel Marcelo.

Garcia told police he realized he had left his cell phone inside Nunez's taxi about Monday midnight. He said he called up his cell phone and Nunez answered.

Garcia said Nunez assured him he would return the cell phone after dropping off a passenger. Garcia said he waited an hour, but Nunez still did not return his cell phone.

When Garcia called again, Nunez told him he was on Quezon Avenue with another passenger. He said he did not hear again from the taxi driver that night.

Garcia said that about 10:30 a.m. yesterday, he managed to contact Nunez again on his cell phone. This time, Nunez asked him if he was willing to pay to get back his cell phone, Garcia said.

He told Nunez he would give him P2,000, but the taxi driver wanted P4,000 instead. Garcia said he agreed but reported the matter to police.

Nunez even set false drop off points in SM Fairview and near the La Mesa dam, where the pay-off was supposed to happen, police said.

The pay-off eventually happened in Pangarap Village in Caloocan City where six other people were waiting for Garcia to show up, police said.

When Nunez showed Garcia his cell phone, PO2 Marcelo and PO2 Roger Esteves accosted him.

Marcelo said Nunez managed to run for about 150 meters and stopped only after he fired a warning shot.

Nunez denied he had demanded money in exchange for the cell phone. He said Garcia could not reach him earlier because he was charging the cell phone's battery.

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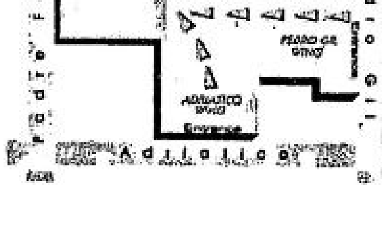

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See posters for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1390, Series of 2001.

Councilor questions delay of P122-million Malabon hall project

By Christian V. Esguerra

A MALABON councilor yesterday asked the local government to confiscate the surety bond posted by contractors of the controversial P122-million town hall project after they failed to complete the building last month.

Councilor Edilberto Torres said contractors Principal Management Group Inc. and Serg Construction should be held accountable for the delay.

The town hall, which is still in the "foundation work" stage, is being developed in an abandoned lot in Barangay Catmon, said Torres.

"But for still unknown reasons, the construction stopped for a long time," Torres noted. "Perhaps, the contractors really did not have money to finance the project."

The surety bond the contractors posted was supposed to cover for the contractors' failure to finish the project within a specified period, Torres said.

But the P12.2 million surety bond the contractors posted was also anomalous, Torres said. The law requires contractors to post 30 percent of the total project cost or P36.9 for the P122-million town hall, Torres noted.

Reports also said that the construction was delayed since the local government had to get the approval of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Torres had earlier complained that Malacañang should have approved the project since the amount of construction exceeded P50 million.

Ferdie Tengson of the Malabon Prequalifications, Bids, and Awards Committee and city engineer Ulysses Tombocon were unavailable for comment.

Earlier, Torres and other opposition councilors filed a criminal case against Mayor Amado Vicencio and other local officials in connection with the project.

Vicencio and other local officials were charged with graft for approving the allegedly spurious deal for the construction of the town hall.

Also named respondents were Vice Mayor Mark Allan Yambao and Councilors Ejercito Aquino, Cynthia Gutierrez, Pable Cabrera, Consuelo Pili, Roberto Romero, Lauro Borja and Benjamin Galauran.

Tengson, Tombocon and planning officer Gloria Tamayo were also included in the graft case.

In the complaint, Torres alleged that the respondents committed many anomalies in the project.

The PBAC allegedly prequalified the joint venture of Sergcon Development Corp. and PMGI. The local government, however, awarded the contract to Serg Construction, which is a different company from Sergcon.

Torres also claimed that the joint venture was also awarded the project even if its paid-up capital was only P162,500.

Newsmen push for probe of Pasay City hospital

REPORTERS covering southern Metro Manila yesterday asked Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad to convene an independent body to investigate alleged negligence by the Pasay City General Hospital which led to the death of a tabloid reporter last month.

The reporters made the call after the Pasay City legal office failed to conclude its investigation of the death of Remate Tonight reporter Reynaldo Pulga, 53, on May 26.

On May 31, Trinidad asked the city legal officer to conduct an investigation following reports that Pulga died due to negligence by members of the hospital staff. Trinidad set a June 4 deadline for the investigation.

Pulga died about 3 a.m. on May 26, four hours after he was admitted to the hospital for an apparent heart failure. Witnesses said the hospital's emergency medical staff left Pulga unattended for at least two hours after his admission.

Jaime Pilapil, president of the Southern Metro Press Club, said the failure of the Pasay City government to conduct a credible investigation of the alleged negligence raises doubts on the impartiality of the local government.

Amor Virata, a director of the National Press Club, said an unfavorable verdict by the city government would be an admission of its failure to effectively supervise the PCGH. She added that it would be better for an independent body to conduct the investigation.

But Dr. Danilo Menorca, PCGH training officer, said Pulga's attending physician, Dr. Eleanor Parico, did everything possible to save Pulga's life. He said that except for a CT scan, every conceivable medical examination was done on Pulga.

He also denied that Pulga was left unattended until he died.

Nelson Flores

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, June 13, 2001
10th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **2 Cor 3:4-11**
Gospel: **Mt 5:17-19**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not think that I have come to remove the Law and the Prophets. I have not come to remove but to fulfill them. I tell you this: as long as heaven and earth last, not the smallest letter or stroke of the Law will change until all is fulfilled.

So then, whoever breaks the least important of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be the least in the kingdom of heaven. On the other hand, whoever obeys them and teaches others to do the same will be great in the kingdom of heaven."

Commentary

Matthew throughout his gospel portrays Jesus as the one sent by God to bring the Law to fulfillment. Unlike the scribes he interpreted the Law from its very center as a call to mercy. He came as the good shepherd to look for the lost sheep of Israel and to proclaim the kingdom to the poor. Like a new Moses, he came to set God's people free from all oppression. Interpreting the Law thus, He restored it to its original intention, to be an instrument of God's goodness. As He Himself was obedient to the Law, He now requests this same obedience from his disciples.

Father, you have given us the law as a light to our path. Grant that we may be faithful to your commandments and become instruments of your love.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Conclusiveness of judgment—Conclusiveness of judgment bars the relitigation of particular facts or issues in another litigation between the same parties on a different claim or cause of action. "The general rule precluding the relitigation of material facts or questions which were in issue and adjudicated in former action are commonly applied to all matters essentially connected with the subject matter of litigation. Thus it extends to questions necessarily involved in an issue, and necessarily adjudicated, or necessarily implied in the final judgment, although no specific finding may have been made in reference thereto, and although such matters were directly referred to in the pleadings and were not actually or formally presented. Under this rule, if the record of the former trial shows that the judgment could not have been rendered without deciding the particular matter, it will be considered as having settled that matter as to all future actions between the parties, and if a judgment necessarily presupposes certain premises, they are as conclusive as the judgment itself. Reasons for the rule are that a judgment is an adjudication on all the matters which are essential to support it, and that every proposition assumed or decided by the court leading up to the final conclusion upon which such conclusion is based is as effectually passed upon as the ultimate question which is solved." (Lopez v. Reyes, 76 SCRA 179, 186-7 [1977]) [Citations omitted.] [Justice Kapunan, First Division, Ocho v. Calos, G.R. No. 137908, November 22, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Teachers with leprosy protest discrimination

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE TALA community in Caloocan City, home to lepers in the country, would be holding an unprecedented protest action against the principal of Tala High School, whom they accused of discriminating against some teachers suffering from leprosy.

Teachers of the Tala High School vowed to boycott their classes today so they could join a rally seeking to oust school administrator Lazaro Gervacio IV.

The rally would also gather parents of the high school students, among whom Gervacio is also "disliked," according to Tala High School faculty president Edwin Labaclado.

Labaclado and 65 other teachers have submitted a petition to the Department of Education, Culture and Sports asking for the transfer or relief of Gervacio from his post so the DECS could improve the management of the school.

The signatories, who formed majority of the 97-member faculty, said they could no longer take the "deplorable conditions" in the school under Gervacio and the "harassment" of mentors who speak up against him.

They recalled incidents wherein Gervacio would humiliate them for their disease, saying their complaints stemmed from their deformities.

The principal also allegedly said the teachers could not read.

"What you are doing is the effect of your illness, which may be physical or mental, or ugly experiences in your childhood which may have had psychological effects on you and affected your sanity," Gervacio wrote in a letter addressed to the faculty in 1997, when the "harassment" allegedly started.

Labaclado also noted that Gervacio rarely attended the daily flag ceremony or reported to his office in Tala because he feared contracting leprosy.

Labaclado said the principal also reduced the teaching assignments of the petition signatories, who were given only minor subjects to handle this school year.

"We are demoralized," Labaclado said in a phone interview, adding that his colleagues, around 25 of whom have Hansen's disease or leprosy, were frustrated by their load because they want to teach full-time.

Gervacio would hire teachers from the Local School Board and make them do clerical work, which the Tala teachers can perform without the school spending more, according to the petition.

Labaclado said the teachers decided to elevate the matter to Education Secretary Raul Roco.

Education Undersecretary Ramon Bacani has endorsed the transfer of Gervacio, but DECS division superintendent Elizabeth Manalo has still refused to heed the endorsement.

The teachers tried but failed to arrange a dialogue with Gervacio in Manalo's office last Thursday, prompting the plans for the first-ever rally of Hansenites against a DECS official.

Gervacio would not comment until he has seen the petition against him, but added that he would make a statement in time.

Students' parents demand refund of 'illegal fee'

By Blanche S. Rivera

PARENTS of more than 100,000 public school students in Parañaque yesterday demanded a P6.8-million refund which they said the Department of Education, Culture and Sports' local division collected from them in 1999 as examination fees.

The DECS recently ruled that the collection for the unified testing scheme initiated in the city was "illegal" and it has instructed local division officials to give back the money.

But the General Parents-Teachers Association of the Parañaque National High School (PNHS-GPTA), the second biggest secondary state school in Asia, said the DECS local division has failed to give back more than P400,000 it still owed the parents.

That money is part of the P6.8-million refund earmarked for Parañaque's 25 public schools.

Joel Landicho, president of the PNHS-GPTA, said the DECS division in the city has refunded only about P200,000 in January 2000, after the teachers protested the collection of fees.

Landicho said other public schools in Parañaque, where more than 100,000 elementary and high school students are enrolled, have not received any refund at all.

"It is very clear that the collection was illegal because it is not included in the DECS order specifying the authorized contribution to be collected from parents on a voluntary basis," Landicho said.

"But we could not do anything then because they would not enroll our children and allow them to take the exams if we do not pay."

Landicho said the purpose of the unified testing scheme was good, as it aims to assess the weaknesses and strengths of the various state schools.

But according to Landicho, the collection of fees was not legal and it proved to be burdensome to poor parents.

DECS Order No. 60, series of 1999, listed only school publication and school organization fees, and the contribution for the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, Girl Scouts of the Philippines, and the Philippine National Red Cross, as legitimate collections from public school students.

Education Secretary Raul Roco recently issued DECS Order No. 22 barring all public schools and civic organizations from soliciting any amount from students, even legitimate fees, during enrollment.

Nelson Buñol, PNHS-GPTA secretary, urged Roco to investigate the collection of fees for unified testing in Parañaque, which defeated the purpose of the public school system.

The PNHS-GPTA also said administrative charges should be filed against Parañaque DECS division officials superintendent Rolando Magno and assistant superintendent Norma Adamos, for violating the DECS order banning the collection of fees other than those specified in DECS Order No. 60.

MAYNILAD TUBIG HINDI TUMUTULO... TUBO UMAAGOS!! -SANLAKAS
AUTO-CERA NO TO WATER RATE INCREASE!
IBASURA
SANLAKAS
WATER RATE INCREASE PABIGAT SA MASA! -SANLAKAS
MAYNILAD ABUSADO

MILITANTS protest against Maynilad's water rate increase, urging the government to junk the automatic currency exchange rate adjustment scheme.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Coalition cries for heads of MWSS board members

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE FREEDOM from Debt Coalition (FDC) yesterday urged President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to fire the entire board of trustees of the Manila Water and Sewerage System (MWSS) and its chief regulator for allowing Maynilad Water Services Inc. to increase its water rate starting next month.

The group also urged the President to scrap the memorandum of cooperation between the government and Maynilad and stop the scheduled water rate increase to spare the people another economic burden.

FDC want the heads of the MWSS board of trustees and of chief regulator Rex Tantiongco for agreeing with the "illegal, duplicitous and fraudulent" agreement, which was signed Friday night.

"By signing the memo, they misrepresented and compromised the interests of the public they were mandated to serve," the coalition said. "Their approval of the agreement implies that they are amenable to a rate increase despite the absence of an investigation of Maynilad's so-called losses."

FDC accused Tantiongco of being the "broker and spokesperson of Maynilad" instead of doing his job as a regulator.

The memorandum of cooperation allowed Maynilad to increase its water rate by P4.75 per cubic meter so that it could recover its foreign exchange losses, which has reached P2.7 billion, within the next 18 months.

But the FDC said the agreement is "deceptive and illegal" and should be scrapped.

It said the agreement "is tantamount" to giving Maynilad the automatic currency exchange rate adjustment (auto-Cera) that it demanded from the government earlier.

The administration rejected Maynilad's demand following public protests and the water utility firm retaliated by stopping the payment of its debt obligations to the MWSS. Maynilad had absorbed the bulk of MWSS' foreign loans amounting to $800 million.

FDC said the memorandum also violates the concession agreement between Maynilad and the MWSS which allowed the Lopez-owned water utility firm to recover its foreign exchange losses within a 22-year period.

"The recently signed memorandum changes the terms of the contract as it allows Maynilad to recover its current P3 billion losses in only 18 months, and to get back within two years the losses it shall incur thereafter," FDC said in a press statement.

It said no public hearings and consultations were conducted before the memorandum was signed.

"Under the agreement, any petition for an extraordinary price adjustment (EPA) must first be subjected to a thorough examination by the technical staff of the Regulatory Office and must undergo a process of public hearings and consultations," the group said.

"Yet, this memo was designed and approved in a closed-door meeting of Maynilad, MWSS, Neda (National Economic Development Authority) and finance officials," FDC added.

The militant group Akbayan also noted that the memo allowed Maynilad's future foreign exchange losses to be recouped through the EPA.

"In other words, every time the peso dips against the dollar, consumers will shoulder Maynilad's forex losses within the following one and a half years," Akbayan said.

"Paying for Maynilad's past forex losses is bad enough," it said. "Why should consumers also pay for prospective forex losses related to Maynilad's loans? Unlike oil, water has nothing to do with exchange rates. It is not bought from the international market in dollar prices."

The group also warned that the memorandum of cooperation might also be used by the other giant water utility firm, Manila Water, to ask for the same increases that the government allowed Maynilad to implement.

2 businesswomen

(From page A21)

which had P50,000 in cash, a P10,000 Nokia cellular phone and P50,000 in jewelry, Jaraza added.

He said Montejo was tending to her store when the six men arrived about 6:45 p.m. Monday, drew handguns and announced a holdup.

One of them then shot Montejo in the head while the others held her employees at bay.

Jaraza said the six men then took Montejo's bag and fled. About 12 hours later, cook Neliscia Dichoso found the body of her employer Pacheco inside Jerbex restaurant, also owned by the victim.

Dichoso found Pacheco on the floor about 6:30 a.m. yesterday. Aside from the fatal wound in her head, Pacheco had bruises all over the body, Jaraza said.

Police suspect Pacheco's two car wash boys, identified only as Abraham and Rommel, were involved in the killing. The steel pipe apparently used in the crime was found under a cabinet. Some of the clothes on the clothesline near the car wash were found stained with blood.

CMMA 2001 nominations accepted

NOMINATIONS to the 2001 Catholic Mass Media Awards are being accepted until July 16.

This was announced by CMMA executive director Rev. Fr. Joselito Jopson and secretariat head Cella Goduco.

The CMMA is an annual project that has the imprimatur of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin. It gives recognition to mass media products in various categories which best reflect Christian social values.

Categories include print, radio and TV, advertising, musical compositions, cinema and, starting this year, Internet websites.

The specific categories are advertising—billboard, print, radio and TV, both product and institutional; cinema; music; website; print—business column, children's magazine, comic strip, entertainment column, investigative report, news coverage, news photograph, opinion column, short story, special feature;

Radio, AM or FM—news or feature, counseling and public service, drama episode, drama series, educational program, entertainment program, news commentary, news program and special event coverage;

Television—adult educational program, business news or feature, comedy program, drama program, drama series, entertainment program, MTV, news magazine, news program, public service, special event coverage and talk show.

Nominations should be submitted to The CMMA Secretariat, 5th Floor, Dominga Bldg., 2113 Pasong Tamo corner De la Rosa St., Makati City.

Inquiries can be made at 812-1833 and 892-4779.

The awards night is set for Oct. 24 and will be telecast on ABC 5.

Quiapo man shot dead for making fun of gunman

By Jerome Aning

A YOUNG man was shot dead after he ridiculed an unidentified man whose gun failed to fire when he aimed it at a group of drinkers in Quiapo, Manila late Monday night.

Rommel Arruejo, 21, and a resident of Porvenir Street in Quiapo, was shot in the left temple, police said. He was pronounced dead upon arrival at the Philippine General Hospital.

SPO1 Virgo Villareal of the Western Police District's homicide section said the unidentified man was armed with a homemade gun or *paltik* when he arrived on board a motorcycle on Porvenir Street about 10 p.m. and appeared to be looking for someone.

The man approached a group of drinkers, aimed the gun at one of the men who was identified as Albert Piamonte, and fired four times. The gun failed to fire and the gunman withdrew hastily when the jeering drinkers tried to apprehend him.

While retreating, the gunman passed by Arruejo, who was washing dishes outside his house. Police said the gunman, who was tinkering with the gun, became enraged when he heard Arruejo and other residents laughing at him.

The gunman then fired at Arruejo. This time, the gun fired.

The gunman escaped on board a waiting motorcycle. The victim was brought to PGH by a brother but it was already too late to save his life.

Investigators said they would see if Piamonte could identify the gunman and say why the suspect would want to kill him.

JEWELRY CATCH ROGER MARGALLO

Esmeralda Saplala, chief of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport customs police, inspects some P50 million worth of jewelry allegedly found strapped to the waist of Philippine Airlines purser Rodolfo Vicente who came on board a PAL flight from Singapore.

Driver slain by his friend

DRIVER Timoteo P. Yangan, 32, did not get home alive after his own *compadre* repeatedly stabbed him in Quezon City on Monday night.

Yangan was stabbed four times by Joselito Tanchado, 42, police said. Both men were of Area C, Barangay Bagong Silangan, Quezon City, said Senior Insp. Rudy Jaraza of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU).

Tanchado allegedly had an old grudge against Yangan and had been waiting for a chance to waylay him.

Yangan was walking home when Tanchado chanced upon him and stabbed him repeatedly, Jaraza said.

Before he died, however, Yangan was able to wound the suspect in the right arm, Jaraza added.

Barangay security officials later arrested Tanchado as he was trying to run away.

But Tanchado denied that he had ambushed his friend. He said it was Yangan who had accosted him.

From behind the bars of the CIU detention cell in Camp Karingal, Tanchado said he was on his way home Monday night when Yangan waylaid him.

He said he had been trying to avoid Yangan because the latter had gone after him with a handgun some months ago.

Philip C. Tubeza

Solon's bodyguard nabbed for terrorizing neighbors

By Agnes E. Donato

A DRUNKEN military man, said to be a bodyguard of reelectionist Pasig City Rep. Henry Lanot, was arrested after allegedly chasing his neighbors with a submachine gun on Monday night.

Police said Army Corporal Ferdinand Estorias, 35, was arrested after one of his neighbors, Alfred Montilla, sought police assistance about 11 p.m. Monday.

Supt. John Sosito, Pasig police chief, said the neighbor got scared when the soldier went out of his house and dared everyone in the neighborhood to a fight.

Estorias was allegedly reeking of alcohol when he also threatened to kill members of his household.

He was still under the influence of alcohol when he surrendered to responding policemen, investigators said.

Recovered from him were a submachine gun, a .45 pistol and an ID card in the name of Representative Lanot.

Superintendent Sosito said Estorias might have been harboring a grudge against the Montillas who reportedly beat him up in a previous confrontation.

Estorias complained to police about the beating but it was later settled outside the court.

Ex-Navy man hunted for abuse

A RETIRED member of the US Navy is being sought by police for the alleged sexual abuse of a neighbor's 4-year-old daughter in Pandacan, Manila.

An aunt yesterday accompanied the girl to the Western Police District's women's desk to file a complaint against the suspect who was identified only as Mang Pisio, 65.

The girl said that whenever she played outdoors, the neighbor used candy to lure her into his house. She said he fondled her private parts.

"*Salbahe po siya* (He's bad)," the girl told reporters. Supt. Araceli Hofilena, women's desk chief, said the girl could not determine how many times she was abused.

The aunt said the girl complained of pain in her private parts last weekend, and later spoke about the abuses.

The girl was subjected to medical examination. Police formed a team to arrest the suspect. *Jerome Aning*

Ex-OCW tries arson for 4th time

By Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE on Monday arrested an alleged drug addict in Malabon for trying to set his house on fire for the fourth time.

Roy Villanueva, 21, a former overseas contract worker in Hong Kong who is said to be mentally ill and a drug addict, would try to burn down his house on Interior Manapat Street, Barangay Taniong, Malabon, whenever he was high on drugs, witnesses told investigators.

On Monday, a relative saw Villanueva talking to himself as he tossed around crumpled newspapers and played with a lighted candle in their house, police said.

Florida Villanueva, the suspect's neighbor and wife of his cousin Rodel, said she feared Villanueva would set his house on fire.

Later that day, Villanueva's relatives and neighbors decided to put an end to his fiery tendencies and had him arrested.

Witnesses claimed Villanueva was already suffering from mental illness when he got back from abroad.

He tried to burn down his two-story house many times since February, investigation showed.

One time, he allegedly set fire to the ceiling of his house. On another occasion, he set his walls on fire by pouring kerosene on a nearby barbecue grill.

If his house had caught fire, it could have gutted the congested community in Barangay Taniong, residents said.

The suspect is now detained at the Malabon Police Station.

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Ivan Reitman's theory of evolution

BY RUBEN V. NEPALES

LOS ANGELES—Ivan Reitman, director of such seminal comedies as "Ghostbusters," "National Lampoon's Animal House" and "Stripes," is adapting to these digital technology times.

From the rubber, matte paintings, photochemical processes and plain old set construction that Reitman and his team applied to achieve the special effects in "Ghostbusters," one of the biggest all-time comedy hits, he has evolved into a filmmaker using the latest CGI technology in his new film, "Evolution."

The Slovakia-born director, who directed and produced films (mostly comedies) that have grossed more than $2.5 billion, talks about his own cinematic evolution in this interview in a hotel suite. Wearing a black shirt and pants, the 56-year-old filmmaker says filming a special effects movie like "Ghost-busters" in the early 1980s was tough.

"It's easier these days because of computer technology," he says. "You can achieve a more realistic look. You can do practically anything. It's only a question of money and time."

Instead of ghosts, Reitman is tackling alien life forms that arrive via a meteor that hits Arizona. These aliens evolve fast (200 million years in a matter of hours) and become a threat to mankind.

"I don't think we could have made 'Evolution' 20 years ago because we were not just looking for one dinosaur or one little dog," says the director who made box-office stars out of Bill Murray ('Stripes') and the late John Belushi ('National Lampoon's Animal House'). "This film has 24 to 25 original creatures. And they have to represent a whole world of ecology."

Adaptability being the key to evolution, even in tinseltown, Reitman jumped on the digital bandwagon wholeheartedly and enlisted the help of special effects veteran Phil Tippett, who won two Oscars for his CGI wizardry in "Jurassic Park" and "Return of the Jedi."

Battling Tippett's quick-changing, always-enlarging digital creatures in this Columbia Pictures film are David Duchovny ("The X-Files"), Sean William Scott ("American Pie," "Road Trip," "Dude, Where's My Car"), Julianne Moore ("Hannibal") and Orlando Jones ("Bedazzled," "The Replacements").

Spectacular Moore

All four stars signed up for the hip, special-effects heavy "Evolution" ("Men in Black" comes to mind) because they wanted to work with Reitman. He is asked particularly about Moore, a surprise name in a comedy movie.

"She's a spectacular actress who I've always wanted to work with," Reitman answers. "When I met her, she had just done 'Hannibal' and 'The End of the Affair.' She was going to do another serious movie. So she was just dying to do something lighter and funnier in between. She said she liked my work and wanted to work with me. And I said, how about this part in 'Evolution?' It's not a big part but it's an opportunity to do something different. She read the script and thought it was funny.

"She told me that she would do it as long as she could fall down a lot. There was no falling down in the script. I said, I already did this falling down bit with Emma Thompson in 'Junior.'"

Reitman laughs as he continues: "I'm worried that people are going to say that I'm the director who takes very serious, fine actresses and forces them to do silly things. She said, no, I want to do this and I'll make sure that I won't be stupid in the movie. It works out comedically but it was a little bit dangerous."

Duchovny's joke

He cracks up, too, as he talks about filming a scene in which his other "serious" actor, Duchovny, decides on the spot to moon a villain: "During a take, I always watch on the monitor. I'm very focused. I'm not aware of the world around me at all during the take. On the third or fourth take, I find myself saying, David is taking his pants off! Why is he doing that? I'm not even thinking that it's actually good or bad for the scene. It's just different from what I'm expecting.

"I realize, he must mean this so I go and ask him, is this a joke, or is it for the outtake reel or do you really mean it and want it in the movie? He said, I thought it was an appropriate response to the scene. I said, okay, in that case, let's really go for it because he was a little careful the first time he did it. There were about 200 extras all around him.

"When we edited the movie, I wasn't sure if the mooning scene was going to be right or not or whether David would even be funny or just silly," Reitman continues. "We had a lot of arguments about it in the editing room. So I said, let's show it in the first test screening and let's see what happens and then we can decide.

"There was a huge response from the audience who broke into a big applause. Forty women wrote in their rating cards, 'He's got a great ass. You should have more of his ass in the movie.'"

Uncooperative army

Does he worry that even though he has had great success in comedies, maybe his humor is not in sync with 2001? "It's absolutely possible," Reitman replies. "It's one of the many things that make comedy tough. You can be in a theater with 300 other people who are laughing away and if you don't laugh, then the movie isn't funny. I don't care that everyone's laughing. My response is, it's not funny.

"It's one of the many things that lead to the cliché that comedy is tough. It will remain to be seen if I can maintain directing comedies because I can lose my touch."

He is asked if the US Army, which is portrayed as gung-ho in dealing with the alien menace, cooperated in making the movie. "No," he responds. "It's very ironic. When I made 'Stripes' 20 years ago, the Army totally supported it and it was much more subversive than anything we do in this movie.

"I'm very popular with the US Army because my movies featuring the Army has been good for them. Army recruiting shot up after 'Stripes.' People thought they were going to Europe and meet attractive women and have wonderful sex."

TOUGH JOB. Reitman (right) discusses a scene with Julianne Moore and Sean William Scott.

Is it a formula in comedy today to cast a black comedian in order to be successful? "I don't think so. But once I did hire Orlando Jones, the black-white relationship (Jones and Duchovny are buddies) was very important. I want it to be as different from what you normally see between black and white persons in a film.

Success story

"Traditionally, in Hollywood comedies, the black guy is usually uneducated, a streetwise guy who's smart in his world, fast-talking and very hip, and the white guy is kind of square, well-educated but is naïve to the ways of the world.

"This is not what I wanted to do. I wanted two equally smart men who took turns in being silly and being very clever and intelligent. I wanted to really believe they could be friends."

For someone who at age four fled with his concentration camp-survivor parents when the Communists took over Czechoslovakia, Reitman is a Hollywood success story. Raised in Canada, Reitman has evolved drastically from his first movie project, a Victorian sex novel adaptation that was deemed soft porn according to Canada's decency laws but was praised by the critics. He almost ended up in jail.

He ended up in Hollywood instead, where he enjoys a career not only as a director but as a producer as well ("Space Jam," "Road Trip," "Beethoven" and Howard Stern's "Private Parts").

Reitman's continuing career evolution could take another turn when a musical film he is nurturing, "Wish," finally goes into production.

"I'm dying to do a musical movie," says the dual Tony Award nominee for best musical director and best director for the hit "Merlin." "I'm working on getting the script of that ('Wish') right. It's one of the things that is potentially in my future."

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PIDO WITH TAKE ONE TOUR SM MALLS

Pido With Take One embarks on a series of mid-afternoon shows at all SM Supermalls in and out of Metro Manila. The group is soaring in the local charts with "Bakit Di Mo Pansin," the carrier song of their self-titled debut album. The SM mall tour covers SM Megamall on June 15, SM Pampanga on June 16, SM North Edsa on June 17, SM Southmall on June 22, SM Bacoor on June 23, SM Manila on June 29, SM City Iloilo on July 1 and SM City Cebu on July 6. The band will sign original copies of their CD, sold during each show. The album is released by MCA Universal.

Globe Gentxt ushers in June with new, exciting gimmicks

GLOBE Handyphone Gentxt ushers in the joyful month of June with more gimmicks.

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A surprise gift awaits the first 1,000 Gentexters to download the special ringtone and the Ralph logo on the first day.

Movie invites are up for grabs for the first 40 Gentxters who will be at the event.

It's another date at the movies on June 20 with the advance screening of the much-awaited "Tomb Raider," starring Academy Award-winning actress Angelina Jolie.

The first 15 Gentxters to go to Harrison Communications starting June 19 gets to see Jolie as video game heroine Lara Croft. Screening starts 7:30 p.m. at Louie's THX Cinema in Makati.

Harrison Communications is at 4/F First Life Center Bldg., 174 Salcedo st., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Look for Gentxter Cecille and flash your Gentxt card to get free tickets.

For the whole month of June, Gentxters get a special treat from ACA Video. For every two videos you rent, you can have additional two free video rentals on all new releases in any format (except DVD).

To be part of these exciting activities and to avail of the special Gentxt promos, Globe Handyphone subscribers 18 to 29 years old may visit any Globe Telecom business center, fill out the Gentxt application form and present the necessary requirements for immediate processing.

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PARK

Children's singing show also aims 'to educate'

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

SINGING contests have always been a good source of potential stars. **Nora Aunor** was a product of "Tawag ng Tanghalan," and **Regine Velasquez** was discovered after she won the grand prize in "Ang Bagong Kampeon."

While old singing competitions merely auditioned contestants, today's contests have more rigid requirements. In "Batang Kampeon," the nationwide children singing star search, even the song to be sung by the contestants has to be screened and approved by a committee.

"We don't allow songs with obscene, foul or offensive lyrics," says "Batang Kampeon" director **Freddie Santos.** "The children are not allowed to do rap. Usually, Disney movie theme songs and ballads are very popular contest pieces."

Produced by **Mark Manalang**'s Ultimate Entertainment, "Batang Kampeon" is an offshoot of the successful singing star search, "Batang Vi-dayllin, Batang Magaling," aired on ABC 5.

"Batang Kampeon" airs on Sundays, 3 to 4 p.m., and is hosted by **Pilita Corrales** and comedian **Carding Castro,** the other half of the Reycard Duet. Castro steps into the shoes of Pilita's erstwhile partner, the late **Bert Marcelo**, who cohosted with her the now-defunct "Ang Bagong Kampeon."

"Singing contests have been existing since my grandmother's time," says Manalang. "In every country, there is a big singing competition. That's why we should have something of our own here."

He says "Batang Kampeon" tries to be different by educating children.

"This is what sets apart the show from others. It aims not just to encourage talented children to participate in the competition. We believe true talent is finest when it's raw."

"**BATANG Kampeon**" hosts Pilita Corrales and Carding Castro.

Santos says "Batang Kampeon" will have new segments designed to keep the show livelier and more entertaining.

"Apart from its primary aim of boosting the morale of talented children, the show hopes to impart values and tips geared toward talent development," the director says.

The contest has tapped corporate sponsors and launched tie-ups with them. Abbott Laboratories Philippines has pledged its support for "Batang Kampeon" by being the program's major sponsor and by giving away gift packs to the winners.

KFC and Mister Donut choose home partners who win cash prizes, gift certificates and gift packs. There is also an ongoing "Batang Kampeon" promo in all KFC and Mister Donut stores until October.

Winners are chosen weekly and monthly. Six monthly winners will compete in the grand finals, with big cash prizes and other awards at stake.

Captain and Regine

MINUTES after **Regine Velasquez** ended her performance last Thursday at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental Manila, we caught her slumped on the carpeted corridor outside her posh hotel suite, still wearing her black gown and high heels. She was waiting for her assistant who had the card key to the room.

Regine has always been a simple, down-to-earth woman out of the spotlight.

Jaya, who has been her buddy since they did a concert together last year, kept her company, also squatting on the floor. Jaya gladly obliged to do an impromptu number with Regine during the concert and they did a stirring duet of "Habang May Buhay."

Thursday night had an SRO crowd as Regine headlined the monthly concert series of Crossover. She was the third artist to be featured in the series, after **Lani Misalucha** and Jaya.

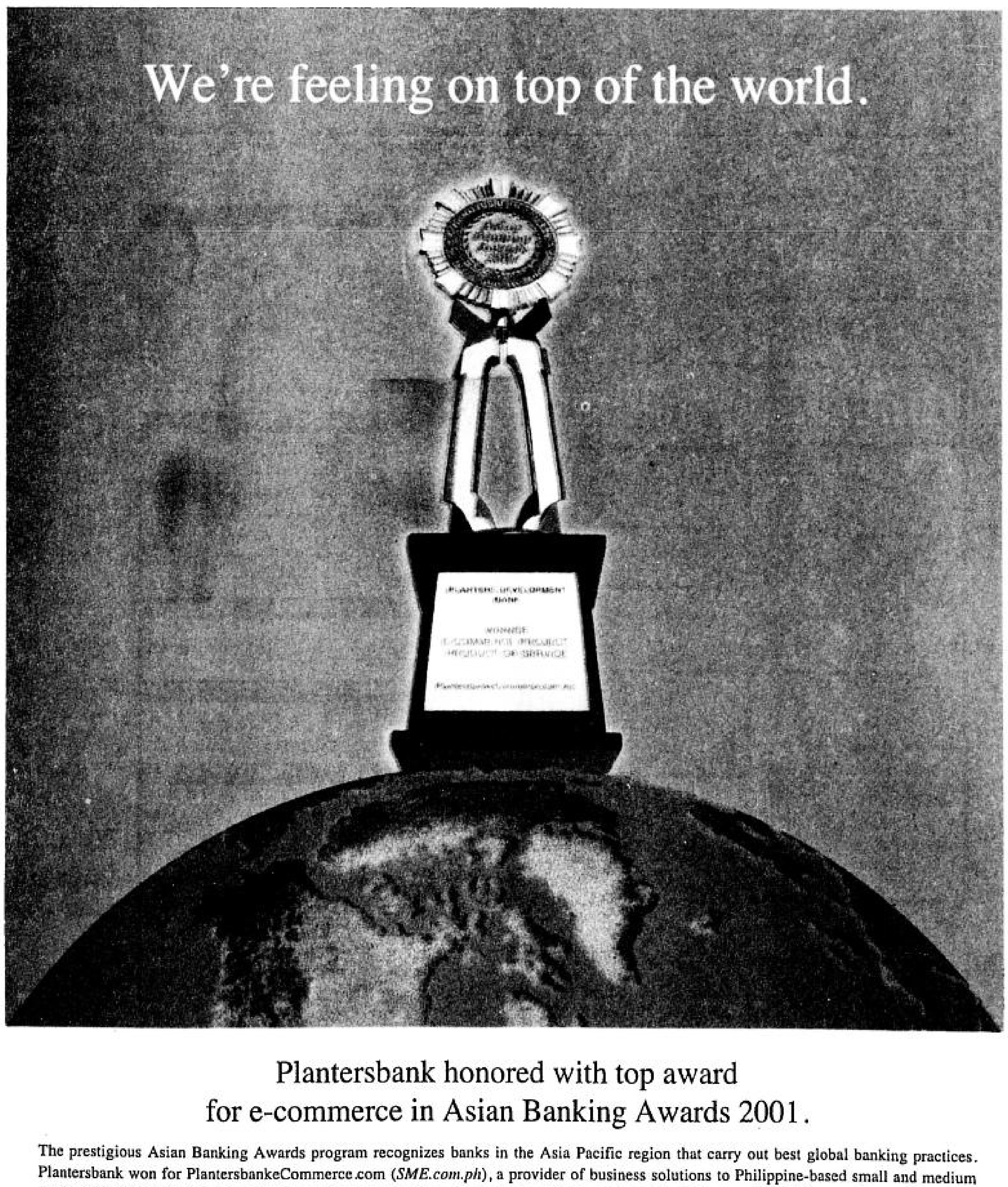
Captain's Bar is close to Regine's heart because she used to hold her birthday concerts there.

It was her last live concert before she left for the States last Sunday. She will be away for more than a week for a much needed R&R before she starts promoting her new movie, "Pangako Ikaw Lang," with **Aga Muhlach.**

Her US trip will also allow her to renew ties with concert producers in the West Coast and East Coast. The US Embassy ban that kept her from entering the US was lifted last month.

In the Captain's Bar show, Regine regaled the crowd with middle-of-the-road tunes, current favorites, OPM and her own hits. Near the end of the show, she granted the many requests from the audience.

CHILDREN'S/ A26



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4	Dreaming Of You	Selena	TONE DRIMOFU
5	Love Me for a Reason	Boyzone	TONE LUV4RISN
6	Breakout	Swingout Sisters	TONE BRKOUT
7	All Star	Smashmouth	TONE ALLSTAR
8	Better Off Alone	Alice Dee Jay	TONE OFFALONE
9	The Final Countdown	Europe	TONE FINALCNT
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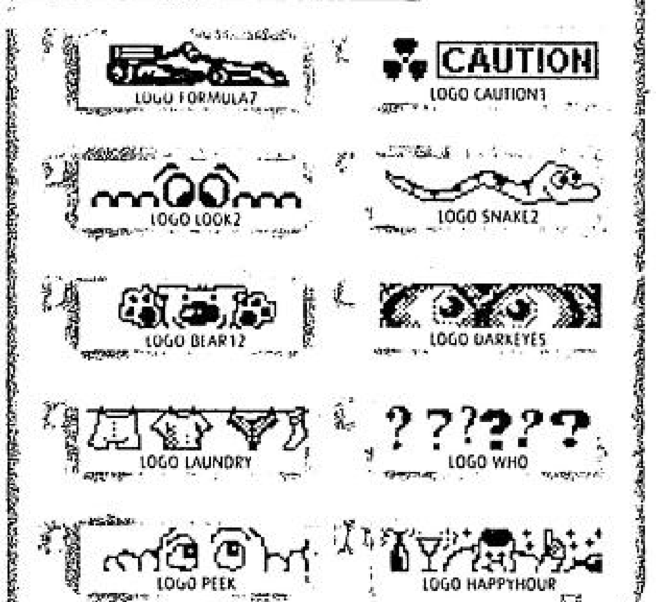

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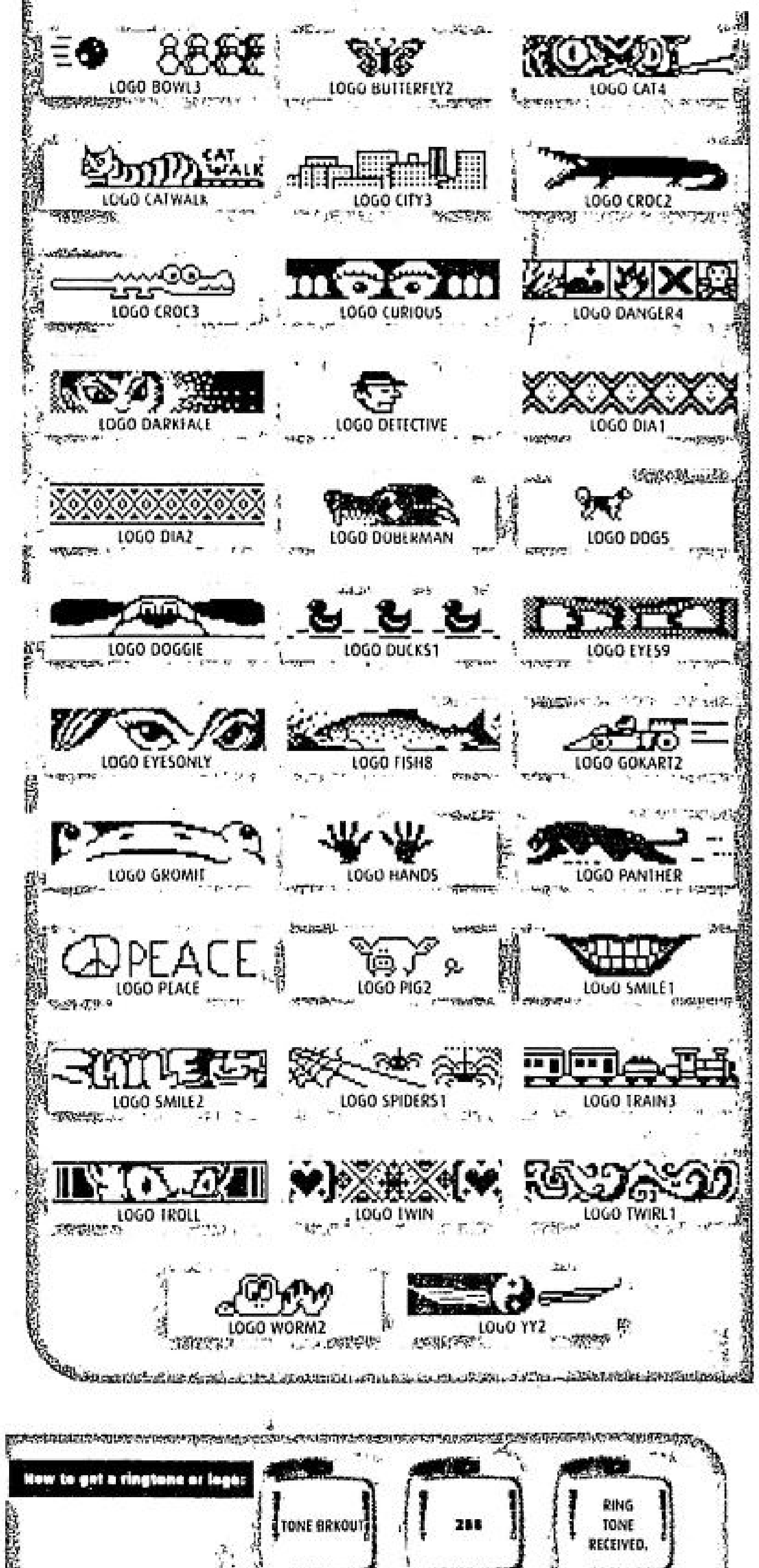

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8	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
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10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS

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2	DOLBY SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
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4	DOLBY DIGITAL	PEARL HARBOR
5	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	PEARL HARBOR
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
10	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
11	DOLBY SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	SPOT

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2	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE REPLICANT
3	DOLBY SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	GET OVER IT
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PEARL HARBOR
7	DOLBY SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
8	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
11	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR

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2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SPOT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
10	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE REPLICANT

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
2	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SPOT
4	DOLBY SURROUND	GET OVER IT
5	DOLBY SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
7	DTS	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	PEARL HARBOR
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
10	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TRAFFIC
12	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PEARL HARBOR
4	ULTRA SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
5	ULTRA SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PEARL HARBOR
9	ULTRA SURROUND	SPOT
10	ULTRA SURROUND	GET OVER IT

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	GET OVER IT

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
2	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	ULTRA SURROUND	VALENTINE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	15 MINUTES
6	ULTRA SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
7	DOLBY SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	CUT AWAY
5	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	TRAFFIC

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PEARL HARBOR
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO

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2	PEARL HARBOR
3	ANTS IN THE PANTS
4	PEARL HARBOR

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1	HEAD OVER HEELS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	PEARL HARBOR in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	PEARL HARBOR THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	GET OVER IT in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5	SPOT in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	PEARL HARBOR in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	THE REPLICANT in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	HEAD OVER HEELS in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	PEARL HARBOR in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	PEARL HARBOR in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE June 15-16 9PM Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	PEARL HARBOR THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	PEARL HARBOR in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	PEARL HARBOR in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	SPOT in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	HEAD OVER HEELS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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3 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4 GOLD (DTS)	SPOT
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	GET OVER IT
6 GOLD (SDDS)	HEAD OVER HEELS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
8 (PR&L)	ANTS IN THE PANTS
9 (PR&L)	BUHAY KAMAO
10 (PR&L)	BUHAY KAMAO

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853 4486

1	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
2	ANTI TRUST
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
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1 (DOLBY)	
2 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
3	GET OVER IT

Masagana CINEMA 2040
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BUHAY KAMAO
2	PEARL HARBOR
3	THE REPLICANT

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	BUHAY KAMAO
2	LABRADOR
3	
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PEARL HARBOR
5	ANTS IN THE PANTS

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543 4001

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	BUHAY KAMAO
4	LABRADOR
5	SPOT
6	PEARL HARBOR
7	THE REPLICANT
8	THE MUMMY RETURNS

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 / 892 3349

1	HEAD OVER HEELS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	SOMEONE LIKE YOU

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
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1	
2	AMBISYOSA
3	PEARL HARBOR

Spring
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1	BUHAY KAMAO
A	PEARL HARBOR

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	PEARL HARBOR
2	BUHAY KAMAO
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	BUHAY KAMAO
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	ANTS IN THE PANTS
4	GET OVER IT
5	PEARL HARBOR
6	THE REPLICANT
7 (DTS)	SPOT
8 (SDDS)	HEAD OVER HEELS
9 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	BUHAY KAMAO

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	BUHAY KAMAO
2	BUHAY KAMAO
3	THE REPLICANT
4 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
5	GET OVER IT
6 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
7 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	LABRADOR
9	ALAS DOSE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	SPOT
2	BUHAY KAMAO
3	THE REPLICANT
4	LABRADOR
5 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
6	HEAD OVER HEELS
7 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
8	GET OVER IT

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	THE REPLICANT
2	BUHAY KAMAO
3 (DTS)	SPOT
4	PEARL HARBOR
5 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	PEARL HARBOR

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BUHAY KAMAO

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson
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1	PEARL HARBOR
2	BUHAY KAMAO
3	THE REPLICANT
4	GET OVER IT

Prima
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1	
3	BUHAY KAMAO

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
2	THE REPLICANT
3	LABRADOR
4	BUHAY KAMAO
5	SPOT

New Divisoria Mall
CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	BUHAY KAMAO
2	PEARL HARBOR
3	LABRADOR
4	THE REPLICANT
5	GET OVER IT
6	KAMASUTRA

Baclaran LRT
CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BUHAY KAMAO
2	THE REPLICANT
3	PEARL HARBOR
4	
5	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
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1	PEARL HARBOR
2	ANGEL EYES
3 (DTS)	BUHAY KAMAO

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ANTS IN THE PANTS
2 (DTS)	BUHAY KAMAO
3 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
4	ANGEL EYES

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
2	MY WIFE LOVER
3	BUHAY KAMAO
4 (DTS)	THE REPLICANT

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
2	BUHAY KAMAO
3 (DTS)	ANGEL EYES
4	ANTS IN THE PANTS
5	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	PEARL HARBOR
2	BUHAY KAMAO
3	ANGEL EYES

Olivarez Los Baños
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1	PEARL HARBOR
2	BUHAY KAMAO
3	ANGEL EYES

Olivarez Tagaytay
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1	KAMASUTRA
2	15 MINUTES
3	SAMBAHIN ANG NGALAN MO

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511 9736

1	BUHAY KAMAO
2	PEARL HARBOR
3	ANGEL EYES

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
2 (DTS)	BUHAY KAMAO

Fourstep
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1	PEARL HARBOR

Emperor
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1	SELOSA
2	PEARL HARBOR
3	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Fiesta World Mall
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1	ANGEL EYES
	LABRADOR
2	
3	
4	PEARL HARBOR

Berma
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2	THE REPLICANT

CitiMall
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1	SPOT
2	LABRADOR
3	BUHAY KAMAO
4	PEARL HARBOR

Jade Cinema
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3 PEARL HARBOR
4 PEARL HARBOR
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	THE REPLICANT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	SPOT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	GET OVER IT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	HEAD OVER HEELS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	BUHAY KAMAO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
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ROBEN	CARTA ALAS
TANDEM-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
TIMES	LOST / HARD BULLET
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	BUHAY KAMAO
QUEZON-1	PEARL HARBOR
REMAR	PEARL HARBOR
REMAR-2	ALAS DOSE
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-2	FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BUHAY KAMAO
CINEMA-2	LABRADOR
CINEMA-3	TRAFFIC
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-6	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-7	BUHAY KAMAO
CINEMA-8	ANTS IN THE PANTS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SPOT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-12	REPLICANT
CINEMA-14	GET OVER IT
CINEMA-15	HEAD OVER HEELS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	GET OVER IT
CINEMA-2	SPOT
CINEMA-3	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-4	HEAD OVER HEELS
CINEMA-5	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-6	PEARL HARBOR
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-2	ANG GUSTO KO SA LALAKE
CINEMA-4	KATAWAN
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-2	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
CINEMA-4	BUHAY NA MANIKIN

VELASQUEZ

Children's

(From page A25)

She sang many of the songs for the first time, like the Destiny's Child version of the Bee Gees' "Emotion," **Celine Dion**'s "That's the Way It Is" and the beautiful ballad "Love is Stronger Far Than We," originally recorded by **Esther Satterfield** for the movie soundtrack of the '60s movie, "A Man and a Woman."

Regine also sang "Come on in Out of the Rain," a revival which she recorded.

Gerard Salonga was on the piano and brilliantly led the backup musicians as the musical director of the show.

Next month, **Janno Gibbs** will headline the "Crossover Presents" series. That should be another show to look forward to since Janno rarely performs in concerts.

NU 107 freedom concert

THE HOME of New Rock, NU 107, celebrates freedom with another raging concert billed as NU 107 Independence Day Sessions, starting 6 tonight at Kampo on West Avenue, Quezon City

The event features the hottest bands in the country such as Itchyworms, Twisted Halo, Murder of Crows, Spank, Coco Jam, Parokya ni Edgar, Razorback, Monsterbot, Battery, Chico Science, Fatal Posporos, Huka and more.

Rock fans are encouraged to listen to NU 107 to win limited tickets. To be aired live over NU 107.5 FM, the Independence Day Session is presented by San Miguel Beer and sponsored by Granny Goose and Sony VX Series Mini-HiFi.

Other events being planned by NU 107 are its annual Rockology 107, a campus tour of the hottest rock bands and the launch of NUTV 37.

Vi, Ralph guest in Boy's show

CELEBRITY couple Vilma Santos and Ralph Recto guest in "Private Conversations with Boy Abunda," 9 tonight on ANC News Channel 21.

Vilma who is on her second term as Mayor of Lipa City, and her husband Senator-elect Ralph Recto will talk about the secrets of their successful partnership, the elections and their life as high-profile politicians.

Host Boy Abunda will also seek to clarify issues hounding the couple when they face the TV cameras. Did Vilma campaign enough for Ralph? Are they at odds with each other?

"Private Conversations with Boy Abunda" is directed by Bobby Garcia. Executive producer is Nikka Santos.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Effect of TV violence on children

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

DESPITE some US TV people's efforts to reduce the incidence of violence on TV shows, parents and educators continue to be alarmed at how constant exposure to brutality on the tube is negatively affecting young viewers.

A recent program on the knowledge channel put the troubling problem in perspective. A concerned mother pointed out, "It isn't the effect on my child that is at issue here, it is the accumulation of violent images on TV that is creating a psychological climate in which violence is the way we solve problems—and the rest of us, even if we don't become violent, expect it.

"And so, when we reach a certain level of tolerance for violent behavior and violence in entertainment, all of us are accomplices in allowing this violent culture to keep on going because of that level of tolerance—and we end up reinforcing the 'normalness' of all of that.

"It keeps getting worse, until we have a really hostile society, which is supposed to work for the common good, trust your neighbor and work together to build a society that will be good for our children in the future.

"The focus on immediate profits above long term gains for our children is really thinking short."

She went on to cite the findings of the American Psychological Association on the subject of TV violence and youth: "There is no doubt that higher levels of violence on TV correlated with increased acceptance of violent behavior.

"Such exposure can lead to increased aggressiveness, fear of being victimized, desensitization, and increased appetite for violence—not a pretty picture!"

To be fair, the program also quoted the dissenting opinion of a psychologist who said that no strong proof could be established for the negative effect on TV violence on the average child.

"Instead," he said, "the culprits are the traditional root causes of violent behavior-already existing violence in the family, all sorts of physical abuse, poverty, unemployment, bad housing, and the cycle of deprivation that produces this major social problem."

Still, more authorities believe that violence on TV *is* a negative influence. An educator points out that children like to imitate what they see, and examples on TV are particularly potent in this regard.

"The violent play I see in the schoolyard is clearly modeled on what the more aggressive kids see on television. The unreality of the characters in TV shows for children concerns me as well. And the high incidence of verbal violence in children is another problem that needs to be understood."

Let's end with some statistics: The average American child views 16 violent acts per hour on primetime TV. On Saturday morning, that goes up to 25 violent acts per hour. And on "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," there are up to 109 violent acts per hour!

"By the time a child finishes sixth grade, he shall have seen more than 100,000 acts of violence on TV, including 8,000 murders. Surprising, there are more violent acts in cartoons than live-action shows, and many parents don't know that."

Well, now that we do, the question is, what do we do about it? First, parents should stop using TV as a sort of electronic yaya to keep children in line, and out of adults' hair.

Children's TV viewing needs to be supervised, and not by the household help, who sometimes like watching programs that are too strong for kids to properly assimilate.

Feedback

FROM **Ednel Almoradie** of Cavite City: "Thanks for spotlighting the new Asin album. I recall that the country's premier folk group debuted in 1978 with the hti single, 'Masdan ang Kapaligiran.'

"They did several albums but broke up in the early '80s. They were reunited some years later and have recorded a total of eight albums.

"Meanwhile, two Asin members formed their own groups: **Lolita Carbon** put up the now defunct Nene, while **Pendong Aban Jr.** and his wife **Chat Coloma-Aban**, came up with Ang Grupong Pendong, which did two albums.

"I hope that folk and ethnic music buffs will support Asin's latest album, 'Pag-ibig, Pagbabago, Pagpapatuloy!"

Aga-Regine movie to premiere at ATC Cinemas

ALABANG Town Center Cinemas presents the premiere of Viva Films' "Pangako Ikaw Lang," starring Aga Muhlach and Regine Velasquez, July 3, 6 p.m.

The event will be graced by the movie's lead stars, with Sherilyn Reyes, Bojo Molina, Bobby Andrews and other Viva artists.

Get free invites and join Aga and Regine in the premiere. Watch any movie shown at the ATC Cinema from June 8 to 22 and collect 6 cinema stubs to entitle you to a free Premiere Cinema ticket.

Redeem your ticket at the ATC Cinema Booth located at the ATC Cinema lobby between 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., from June 18 to 22.

Only 550 seats will be reserved for the premiere night. Reservations and theater assignments are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

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HEAD OVER HEELS - P 13 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00	PEARL HARBOR - P 13 1:00, 4:30, 8:00	PEARL HARBOR - P 13 12:20, 3:50, 7:20, 10:50

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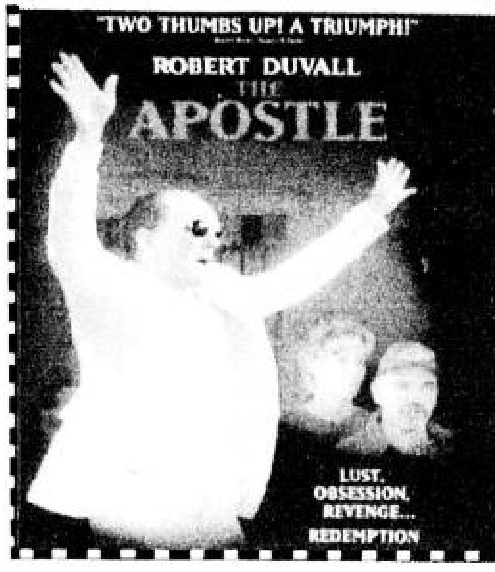
When a meteor crashes Earth carrying alien life forms, all hell wackily breaks loose.

David Duchovny (FBI Agent Mulder in X-FILES), Orlando Jones (BEDAZZLED), Seann William Scott (AMERICAN PIE) and two-time Oscar® nominee Julianne Moore (HANNIBAL) star as the only people standing between the aliens and world domination.

A team of visual effects wizards, led by Phil Tippett, worked with director Ivan Reitman (GHOSTBUSTERS) to design an ever-evolving assortment of alien creatures, which were then digitally rendered. Tippett created the dinosaurs in JURASSIC PARK and the giant alien insects in STARSHIP TROOPERS.

AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
OPENS JUNE 20 (WED.)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THE APOSTLE
LUST. OBSESSION. REVENGE... REDEMPTION

PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
ROBERT DUVALL
THE
APOSTLE

After being squeezed out of his church by his ex-wife, a Texas fundamentalist preacher's alcohol-fueled rage sends him off the deep end. After beating her new beau into a coma, he flees to Louisiana and seizes the chance to reinvent himself as a devout "Apostle," founding a new church and captivating the citizenry while keeping his sins buried Duvall, who also wrote and produced, is riveting in the title role.

ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATION
Best Actor - Robert Duvall

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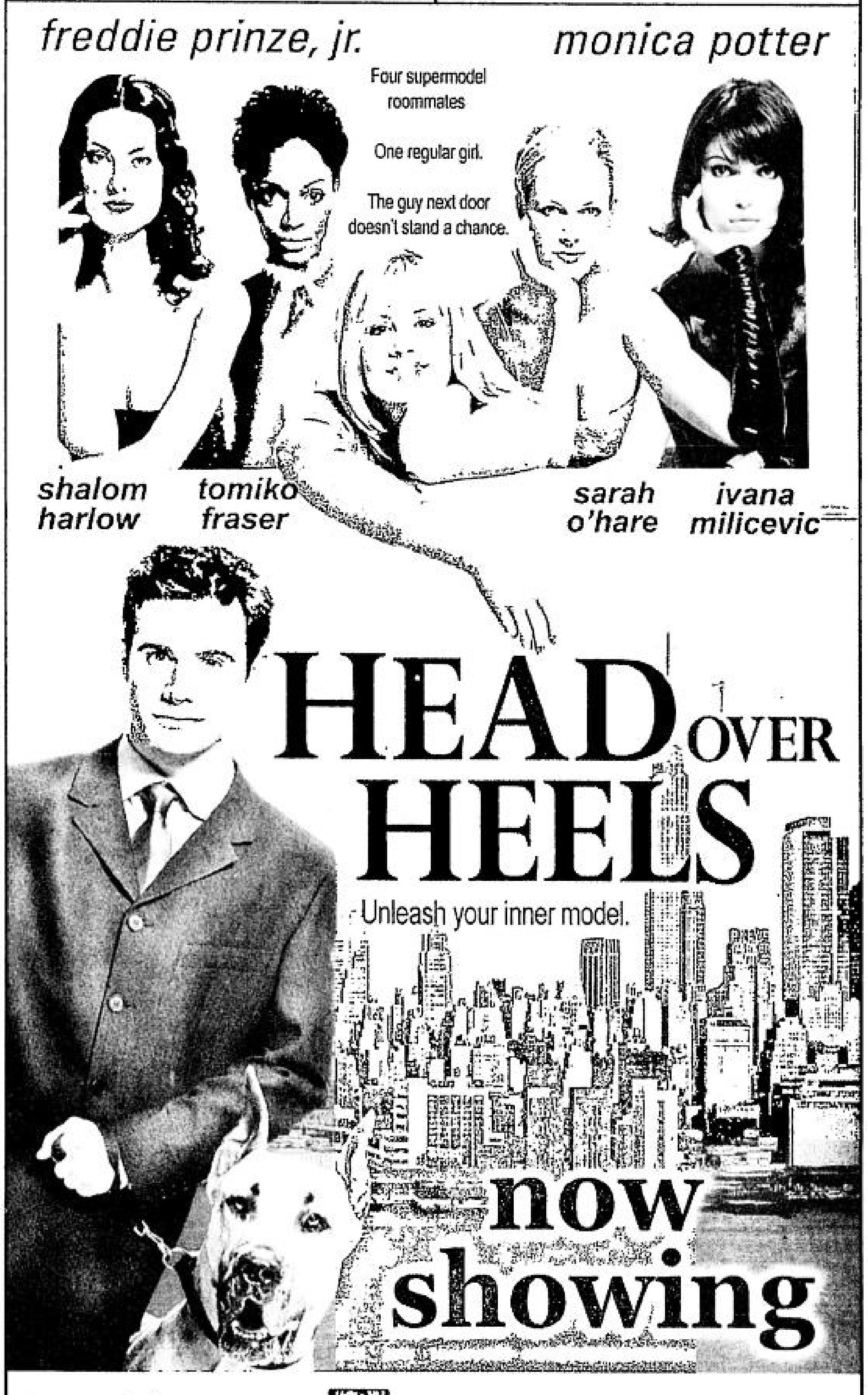

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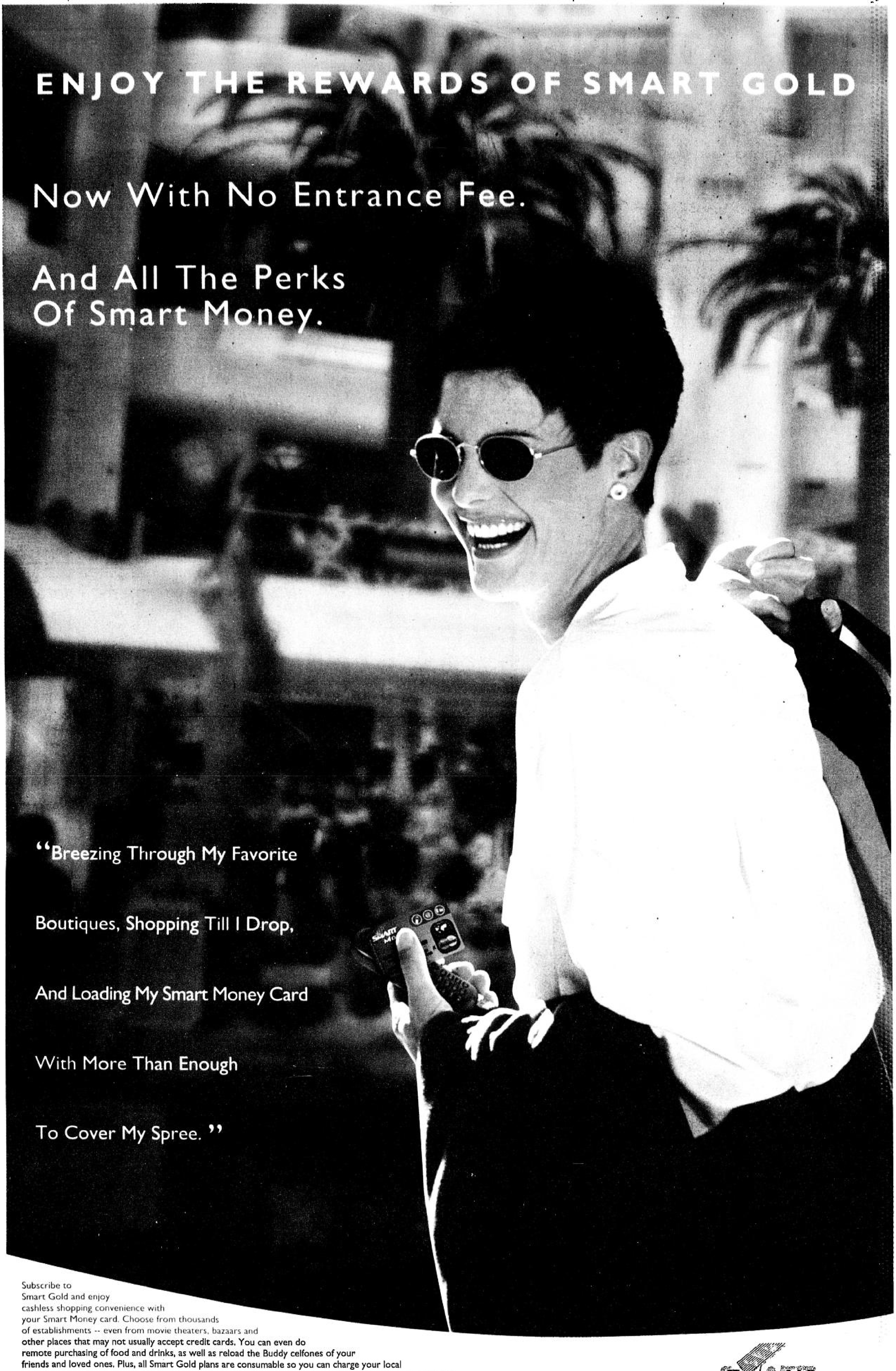

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SMART GOLD GSM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B1

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

HONDA
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Economic growth seen weaker at 2.78%

THE COUNTRY'S gross domestic product (GDP) growth is forecast to weaken to 2.78 percent this year from 4 percent in 2000 as the country faces slower electronics export demand from major markets such as the United States, a Reuters poll of 10 financial institutions showed.

The forecast was lower than the 3.32 percent GDP growth estimated in the March Reuters poll but in line with another poll taken before a change in government took place in January.

However, the respondents forecast a higher 4.09-percent expansion in GDP for 2002.

Economists earlier said the assumption to power by President Macapagal-Arroyo was likely to improve business confidence.

But the economy remains sluggish more than four months into the Macapagal presidency, largely due to the weak external environment.

"So much is up in the air (for GDP growth) with the US economy and electronic markets still under a cloud," said David Cohen, economist of S&P MMS in Singapore.

Economists said the Philippines is one of the countries in the region highly exposed to the global downturn due to its reliance on electronics exports.

Electronic components account for close to 50 percent of the Philippines' total exports.

"The country's export performance, compared to the rest of the region, is very poor. The reliance on electronics is not very healthy," said Steve Brice, economist of Standard and Chartered in Singapore.

"The United States is seeing considerable cutbacks in spending on technology and electronics will be affected."

The government estimates GDP growth will reach about 3.8 percent this year, although officials said the country's macro-economic targets are up for review soon given the first-quarter results where GDP growth came in at 2.5 percent.

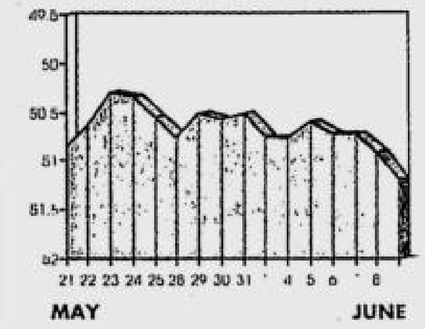
GDP grew by 3.2 percent in 1999 and by 4 percent last year. These reversed a 0.5-percent contraction in 1998. Growths in 1996 and 1997 were robust at 5.7 and 5.2 percent.

The foreign financial institutions polled by Reuters were ABN Amro, BNP Paribas, Credit Suisse First Boston, Chase Manhattan, Citibank, G.K. Goh Securities, Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch Securities, S&P MMS, and Standard Chartered. *Reuters*

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P51.190 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
June 11, 2001

¥121.85-88 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 121.85-88 as of 5 p.m., June 12, 2001

GOLD:$267.90/268.40
per ounce Hong Kong,
June 12, 2001

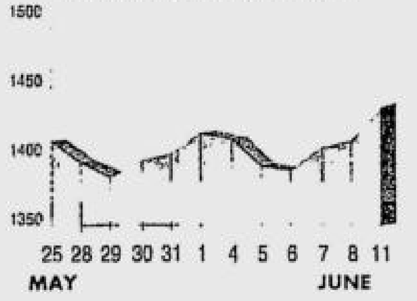
June11, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.175503	1.000000	50.8030
Japan	Yen	0.009720	0.008269	0.4201
United Kingdom	Pound	1.622311	1.380100	70.1132
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.150725	0.128222	6:5141
Switzerland	Franc	0.655789	0.557880	28.3420
Canada	Dollar	0.773917	0.658371	33.4472
Singapore	Dollar	0.649987	0.552944	28.0912
Australia	Dollar	0.615253	0.523396	26.5901
Bahrain	Dinar	3.118210	2.652661	134.7631
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.313484	0.266681	13.5482
Brunei	Dollar	0.648374	0.551572	28.0215
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000089	0.0045
Thailand	Baht	0.026076	0.022183	1.1270
UAE	Dirham	0.320082	0.272294	13.8334
Korea	Won	0.000915	0.000778	0.0395
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.850700	43.2181
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.434956	22.0971
France	Franc	0.152450	0.129688	6.5885
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.386031	19.6115
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.061823	3.1408
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021088	1.0713
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000439	0.0223
Finland	Markka	0.168187	0.143077	7.2687
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004243	0.2156
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005113	0.2598
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021088	1.0713
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.080166	54.8757

STOCK MARKET

Stocks seen to rise

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices are expected to continue their uptrend mainly on bargain hunting as trading resumes after the Independence Day break yesterday.

Analysts said buying interest was spreading to second-line stocks and volume is expected to pick up. Profit taking, however, is expected to pare the gains made by blue chips since the market's rally last week.

Stocks finished sharply higher Monday, buoyed by strong demand for blue chips, led by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index broke its 1,430-point resistance with a 25.27-point, or 1.8-percent, rise to 1,435.77, adding to a 0.3-percent gain Friday. The index has gained 3.3 percent since June 7.

PLDT helped boost the main index, closing 4.5 percent higher at P700,

STOCKS/ B2

PSE clarifies demutualization

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange yesterday clarified that its proposal to transform into a stock corporation featured a de facto merger with a new corporation and not an actual dissolution.

PSE lawyer Maria Larrie Alinsurin explained that the proposal complied with the requirement of the Securities Regulation Code that by August this year, the exchange should reorganize from a mutual or membership organization into a stock corporation, a process technically known as demutualization.

Alinsurin explained that the de facto merger of the exchange with a new company was suggested by auditing giant SGV & Co. for efficient tax management purposes.

Under the proposed demutualization, the exchange would create a new corporation that will take over at least 80 percent of the exchange's total assets, including property. PSE member broker-dealers would then surrender membership rights to the PSE and, in return, receive shares of the new corporation, shares in the PSE and trading rights.

This proposed demutualization mode would be presented to the PSE board and the exchange's membership soon. It was arrived at after the SEC objected to the PSE's

PSE/ B2

Forex reserves target lowered

By C. S. Batino

A CONTINUED slowdown in export growth has prompted the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to lower its gross international reserves target by $1 billion to $14 billion.

It also reversed its balance-of-payment forecast to a deficit of $1 billion for 2001 from an original surplus target of $70 million.

The downgrading followed the government's downscaling of its export growth projection to only 4 percent, more than half of last year's 8.7-percent growth, as the economies of the United States and Japan, the country's two major trading partners, started slowing down.

"Our GIR may just hit $14 billion this year instead of $15 billion," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

From an original GIR target of $16 billion, the central bank had asked the International Monetary Fund to reduce the dollar reserves target this year to $15 billion or to a level the same as in 2000.

The IMF had agreed to a $15-billion GIR target since the level matched the country's short-term borrowings.

According to Buenaventura, the Bangko Sentral has submitted a target range of $14-$15 billion to the IMF. "We may just achieve the lower end of the range," the central bank governor said.

Comprised mostly of US dollars, the GIR is the total foreign currency holdings of the central bank. Gross reserves also include gold and special drawing rights, the currency used by the IMF.

The BOP represents the country's total financial transactions with the rest of the world, including capital and financial accounts as well as current account which covers the country's trade in goods and services.

The central bank said it was counting on improved merchandise exports, particularly from electronics, to pull up the current account and enable the BOP to end the year with a surplus compared to a deficit of $512 million last year.

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- Day 3 & 4: Various Business and Engineering Seminars
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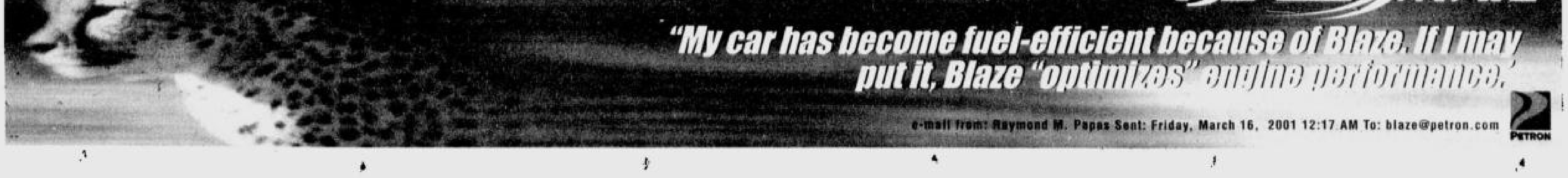
  TRACK 2: AUTOMATION
  TRACK 3: UTILITIES
  TRACK 4: BUSINESS TRENDS SEMINARS
  TRACK 5: PROCESSING TECHNOLOGIES

For reservations & information, please contact the Secretariat at: 373.3601 loc 216 • 371.7398 • 371.7405 (telefax)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PETRON

PLDT raising $900M to repay debts, finance expansion plan

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

TELECOMMUNICATIONS giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. is planning to raise between $500 million and $900 million from the capital market to refinance debt and finance its expansion program over the next three years.

Industry sources said PLDT had some debt obligations whose maturity would bunch up in the next three to four years and would have to be replaced with longer term debt instruments.

The sources said PLDT would jumpstart the borrowing plan with a bond float this year, most likely a 10-year eurobond issuance.

In a separate interview, a PLDT official confirmed that a big portion of the borrowing program would go to debt refinancing, but noted that the company might need only about $500 million.

The source said PLDT would likely tap the capital market in several instances rather than source these requirements in a one-shot deal.

But analysts said PLDT might have to wait for a good time to float the bonds. Should PLDT decide to rush into the foreign loan market, they said the company would have no choice but to shoulder a steep premium in view of the difficult global environment.

Aside from retiring debts, other analysts said PLDT would have to beef up its cash reserves for its strategic expansion plans. For instance, PLDT, through its wholly owned Mediaquest Holdings Inc., had entered into a memorandum of understanding with GMA Network Inc. to buy a controlling 66.67-percent stake in the country's second biggest broadcasting firm for P8.5 billion. The deal, however, still needs congressional approval.

PLDT's net profit for the first quarter of 2001 surged by 472 percent to P628.9 million from only P110 million in the same period a year ago. However, this was still below the expectation of most analysts who were projecting a stronger bottom line in the wake of an improved performance from its cellular unit, Smart Communications Inc.

Last year, PLDT absorbed heavy losses from Smart after it spent so much to upgrade the unit's network. It is, however, expected to start reaping the gains from such spending this year.

The INQUIRER earlier reported that PLDT was wooing the subsidiary of former state telecommunications monopoly Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) to invest in Smart. PLDT has an existing relationship with the NTT group, which owns 15 percent of its outstanding common shares.

NTT DoCoMo, a leader in wireless technology, is Japan's biggest company in terms of market capitalization. It has been the best performer among telecom stocks worldwide since the beginning of the year, buoyed by the phenomenal growth of its i-mode mobile Internet service. NTT DoCoMo is also embarking on full 3G services, which give faster Internet access and features such as videoconferencing.

For its part, PLDT's revenue stream has shifted greater reliance on its wireless units.

RCBC forecasts 20% profit growth this year

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. of the Yuchengco group of companies is expected to register a minimum 20-percent profit growth this year from last year's P370 million, RCBC executive vice chair and chief executive Alfonso Yuchengco III said.

In a short talk with reporters following the launching Monday of RCBC's Internet banking solution for corporate clients, Yuchengco said the expected earnings growth would be a result of the low interest environment and the stabilization of the bank's level of bad loans.

RCBC, one of the country's top 10 biggest banks, posted a first-quarter profit of more than P140 million or 30 percent over last year's net income for the same period, Yuchengco said.

He said RCBC was in discussions with various foreign groups, including Deutsche Bank, for the sale of a new company that would hold certain bad loans and acquired assets of the bank.

The talks, however, were preliminary and no prospective investor has yet to conduct a due diligence on the bad assets of the bank.

Yuchengco said the bank's non-performing loan ratio or percentage of soured loans to total loans amounted to 17 percent.

The bank launched Monday its RCBC Enterprise Banking, which allows corporate clients to use the Internet for account inquiry, transaction history, fund transfers, checkbook reorders, stop payment orders, supplier payments, payroll management and a host of other services. Through RCBC Enterprise Banking's Internet facility, corporate customers can also view the bank's latest foreign exchange and deposit rates and get the latest financial advisory and avail themselves of a built-in e-mail service.

"We installed new hardware and cables in RCBC Plaza, and had the Enterprise Banking site hosted in one of the fastest and most reliable servers in the country. Also, all our business centers are online, ensuring faster communication among our entire bank network," Lorna Evidente, head of RCBC's information technology group, said.

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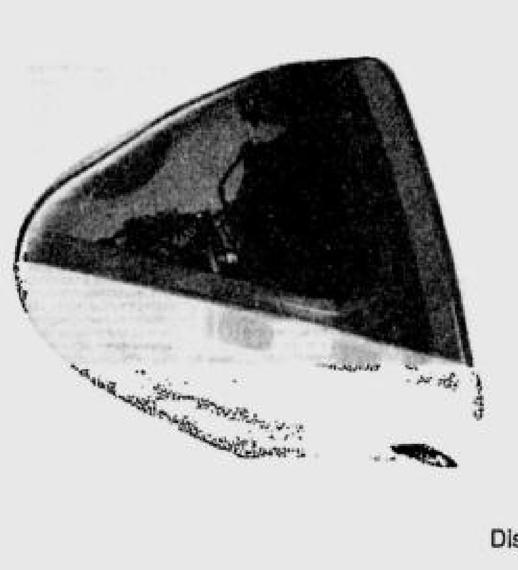

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*Promotion is on June1 - July 15, 2001 Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0771, Series of 2001

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, June 11, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	73	76	73	76	856,900
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	38.5	39	38.5	39	32,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	218	219	217	218	280,230
Philippine National Bank	49.5	49.5	49	49	27,000
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	2,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc..	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	70,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	120,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1330	1330	1325	1330	1,780
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	30,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1145	1155	1145	1155	3,810
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	38	41	38	41	73,00
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.46	0.51	0.46	0.5	5,300,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	665	665	665	665	140
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	250,000
Piltel	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	670	705	670	700	194,32
Ivantage Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.88	0.88	160,00
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.04	0.041	0.039	0.04	106,700,00
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	41	41	40.5	40.5	21,3
Manila Electric Co. B	56	56.5	55.5	55.5	630,1
Petron Corp.	2.34	2 38	2.28	2.36	11,638,0
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.95	2.8	2.95	14,441,0
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,0
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	60,0
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	130,0
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	31,0
Union Cement Corp.	1.22	1.26	1.14	1.2	8,713,0
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	3,0
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.25	4.25	4	4.05	664,0
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	139,5
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	26.5	27	26.5	27	40,5
Pancake House Inc..	1.58	1.62	1.58	1.62	30,0
Pure Foods Corp. A	120	120	120	120	1,3
RFM Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.28	1.28	1,050,0
San Miguel Corp. A	42	42	41.5	41.5	37,1
San Miguel Corp. B	46.5	47	46	46	322,5
Vitarich Corp	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	100,0
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.76	0.85	0.76	0.79	290,0
Abacus Con Res & Hdg. B	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	10,0
Ayala Corp.	7.1	7.1	7	7	3,528,0
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.54	1.62	1.54	1.58	1,212,0
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.5	12	11.25	11.25	4,8
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	60,0
A. Soriano Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.58	0.58	1,310,0
APC Group Inc.	0.17	0.2	0.17	0.19	520,0
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,0
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	50,0
ATN Holdings Inc..	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.2	8,0
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.68	1.92	1.68	1.88	49,665,0
Basic Consolidated Inc	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,0
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	4,810,0
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	322,0
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	24	24	24	24	319,6
Global Equities Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,0
Ionics Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	4,6
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.04	2 08	2.04	2.08	50,0
Megaworld Corp.	0.77	0.79	0.77	0.77	2,020,0
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	170,0
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.48	0.5	0.47	0.5	2,470,0
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.51	2,090,0
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0 28	0 28	0 28	0.28	900,0
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc . A	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	115,0
Music Corp.	2.48	2.6	2.48	2.55	709,0
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	10,0
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	100,0
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	96,4
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.56	0.6	0.55	0.6	5,530,0
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.57	0.64	0.57	0.61	3,240,0
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.48	0.5	0 48	0.5	470,0
Manila Jockey Club	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	15,0
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0 23	0 23	0 23	0.23	530,0
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	38 5	41	38 5	41	770,5
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	490	490	490	490	2,2
Equitable PCI Bank-War	2.22	2.22	2.2	2.2	40,0
Globe Tel. A-Warrants	450	450	450	450	4
Jollibee Warrants	13	13.25	13	13.25	83,6
RFM Corp.-Pref.	3.55	3.55	3.45	3.5	183,0
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.032	0.032	0.031	0.032	30,600,0
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc..	4.95	5.2	4.9	5.2	8,889,0
C & P Homes Inc..	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.33	2,270,0
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	2,850,0
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.4	2.42	2.28	2.3	8,294,0
MRC Allied Ind. Inc	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,0
SM Development Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,0
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.4	2,472,0
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.08	0 08	0.08	0.08	1,200,0
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,0
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	10,000,0
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.016	0.019	0.016	0.019	4,900,0
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16	1,550,0
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,0
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	1,000,0
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	39,000,0
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	200,0
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.235	500,0
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	960,0
OIL					
Imperial Res	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	1,600,0
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	2,000,0
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	1,000,0

Stocks seen to rise

(From page B1)

on foreign demand.

"Most of the bad news we've had has already been discounted by the market," said A&A Securities research head Astro del Castillo.

He said even with the Abu Sayyaf hostage crisis still unresolved, President Macapagal had shown her determination to pursue much needed economic measures, namely, the Omnibus Power Bill, which was signed into law last week.

The Abu Sayyaf Muslim extremists hold more than 13 hostages, including three Americans, on the southern island of Basilan.

"The government has shown it is in control, despite the negative circumstances," said Del Castillo.

The passage of the power bill helped boost demand for power stocks such as Meralco.

Blue chip Ayala Land also contributed to the market's favorable performance on bargain hunting after suffering from heavy foreign selling in previous sessions.

Benpres Holdings rose after the government gave Benpres' water unit authority to raise rates by 72 percent effective July 1 to partly offset foreign exchange losses, traders said.

PSE clarifies demutualization

(From page B1)

original proposal, duly approved by member broker-dealers last December, to allocate 8 million common shares per member based on the exchange's net asset value of P1.4 billion.

However, the SEC said that the shares of the new company cannot be distributed to the PSE members or sold until the demutualized PSE itself has been dissolved.

Moreover, the SEC required the PSE to get the approval of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and donors of the property before the plan can be executed.

Nevertheless, the SEC said that if within four years the PSE secured an opinion from the Department of Justice that there was a lawful de facto dissolution of the PSE, shares of the new company could be distributed in favor of member-brokers even without an actual dissolution of the exchange.

Given that the PSE may fail to meet the requirements before Aug. 8, the mandated deadline for the exchange's demutualization, the SEC suggested that the PSE take a two-step approach.

The first step involved the appraisal of the property donated by Ayala Land Inc. and Philippine Realty to the PSE, the establishment of a development fund, and the valuation of subscribed and paid-up capital based on membership contributions.

Following the demutualization, the exchange, together with its incorporators, could transfer the donated assets to a new corporation for shares equivalent to the value of the donated assets. At the same time, the exchange would distribute shares to all original PSE members

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Turnaround time

FOUR years after the currency crisis erupted and razed the real estate/construction industry, the high-end segment of the residential property market is beginning to show signs of stirrings.

For instance, the Malaysian-controlled, publicly listed Kuok Properties last week toured the first set of tenants to the model units of its Shang De La Rosa, the Legaspi Village condominium project that it launched, and quickly aborted, right smack as the peso and other regional currencies were tumbling one after another.

From an original two-tower project, the Kuoks, who built the outstanding Enterprise Center on Ayala and Paseo de Roxas, have lowered their sights to a more modest one-tower condo. Still, at 50 floors, the Shang De La Rosa would be the tallest residential building in Legaspi Village when finished by end-2004.

Probable selling price? A stiff P100,000/sq.m., which places it in the same price category as the Pacific Plaza Towers in Fort Bonifacio. But unlike the all-three-bedroom Pacific Plaza Towers, Shang De La Rosa would offer a more affordable one-and two-bedroom units.

Banking on the success of the Pacific Plaza Towers, the Spanish-inspired Comunidades is launching tomorrow a foothold into the most desirable neighborhood in the country. The site of the Comunidades is the excavated Philrealty property by the cul de sac beside the Pacific Plaza Towers, also just outside, and should also be overlooking, the Manila Golf Club.

Going back to Legaspi Village, the Ayalas are feverishly rushing a block-wide extension of Greenbelt just a few blocks away from the proposed Shang tower. Instead of a carpark on top as it has on the old one, the new Greenbelt wing will be crowned by a row of townhouses—all for lease, not sale—overlooking the pocket park.

Target completion date: end-2002.

Even Megaworld, the undisputed leader in mid-market residential condo segment, is joining the early birds with a planned 30-story-plus structure behind the AIM campus, also on Legaspi Village. Coincidentally, Megaworld is also aiming for an end-2004 completion target.

Like the Malaysians, the Singaporeans have been moving into the high-end local property market and, just like what they had been doing in the banking/finance sector, have been quietly picking up good buys whenever they can.

According to the market grapevine, Singapore's Government Investment Corp. has already reached an advanced stage of negotiations with the First Pacific Plaza toward acquiring 100 units, representing the remaining unsold inventory, of the landmark twin towers.

We understand that a Singapore-based official who is to give the final go-ahead for the acquisition flew in from the Lion City last week for an ocular inspection.

The prospective deal is valued at $40 million, or more than P2 billion, an income stream al-

COCKTALES/ B4

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Partial List 06/11/2001 CLUBS	ASKED Price	Share Swapping: Please Call CLUBS	BID Price
ALABANG "A"	2,000,000	ALABANG "A"	1,800,000
CC @ TAGAYTAY	470,000	ALABANG "B"	2,000,000
CALATAGAN	120,000	CAPITOL HILLS	125,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	CELEBRITY CLUB	200,000
EAGLERIDGE "B"	550,000	EAGLERIDGE "A"	300,000
FOREST HILLS "A"/"C"	.30 M/.45 M	MANILA GOLF (INDIV.)	14,500,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	430,000	MANILA GOLF (CORP.)	16,250,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	825,000	MANILA POLO CLUB	3,800,000
ORCHARD "B"/"C"	.60M/.65M	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	800,000
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	90,000	METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	160,000
SHERWOOD HILLS	230,000	QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	225,000
STA. ELENA "A"	2,100,000	RIVIERA "A"	250,000
SUBIC BAY YACHT (CORP)	550,000	STA. ELENA "B"	2,200,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	925,000	WACK WACK GOLF	9,500,000

AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

ALABANG CC "A"	25,000	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	50,000
CANLUBANG	35,000	STA. ELENA "A"	80,000
MAKATI SPORTS	30,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	40,000
MANILA GOLF	500,000	WACK WACK	100,000

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COUNTRY SHARES
As of June 13, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1.9M/2.1M*	Pls. call/Pls. Call*
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	790,000	800,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	375,000
CANYON WOODS	-	Pls. Call
CAPITOL HILLS	120,000	130,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	210,000	215,000
CLUB FILIPINO	300,000	330,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	425,000	450,000*/700,000**
EASTRIDGE A	-	200,000
EVERCREST A/B*	130,000*	150,000/170,000*
FONTANA D/C*/B**	88,000/120,000*	90,000/150,000*/280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	-	250,000/350,000*/450,000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	-	550,000
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	400,000/450,000*	405,000/455,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C* (w/lot)**	395,000	400,000/650,000*/2.0 M**
MANILA POLO CLUB	3,600,000	4,000,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	850,000/975,000*
METROPOLITAN A/B*	160,000	175,000/180,000*
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	200,000/350,000*	240,000/550,000*
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	280,000/500,000**	300,000/425,000*
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	85,000	90,000
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	150,000	Pls. call*
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	225,000	230,000
RIVIERA A/B*	-	280,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	600,000	650,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*	100,000	120,000/150,000*
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	250,000	275,000/350,000*/450,000**
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	300,000/400,000*	PLS. CALL
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	320,000	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY H-LANDS CC/GOLF*	-	450,000/1.0 M*
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	850,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	175,000	-
WACK WACK	-	9.0 M

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Need Lessors for Playing Rights: Eastridge B, Eagleridge, Manila Golf, Punta Fuego, Rockwell, Sherwood B

Selling: Villas, Belleview, Pinecrest & Woodlands in Tagaytay Highlands; Pacific Plaza (3 bdrm), & Ponte de Salcedo (3 bdrm)

Lots: Eagleridge, Forest Hills, Punta Fuego, Royale Tagaytay & Southwoods

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Honda Cars Alabang Madrigal Business Center, Alabang-Zapote Road cor. Investment Drive Alabang, Muntinlupa Tel. Nos.: 807-7704, 807-7078, 809-4560 Fax 809-5052
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Cocktales

(From page B3)

ready factored in by First Pacific Plaza Towers' parent, the publicly listed Metro Pacific, in its "most favorable scenario" for 2001.

Given the kind of money that the Singaporeans and Malaysians are willing to commit in the Philippines, it makes you wonder what they see in this country that many Filipinos can't beyond the day-to-day screaming headlines about the Abu Sayyaf.

Short takes

- THE HONG Kong government is willing to give the Philippines two extra daily flights for the busy Manila-Hong Kong route. Out of the two, taipan Lucio Tan wants one flight for his Air Philippines, leaving taipan John Gokongwei only one flight for his to-be-launched Cebu Pacific regional routes.

The existing five flights are of course now being served by Philippine Airlines.

- THE MERCEDES C-class that Miriam Defensor-Santiago has set her eyes on was acquired from Cats Motors of Felix Ang, not Cats Edsa as was reported on Monday.

Cats Edsa, controlled by Ang's brother Tony, represented the aborted Volkwagen dealership with Erap son J.V. Ejercito.

Heard through the grapevine

SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo last week tried to table for approval the long-term lease of Subic's Grande Island to Robin Tan of Fontana casino fame but the rest of the SBMA board members balked, saying that the proposal was not even on the agenda.

Fontana, if you believe Chavit Singson, has been palmed off by Tan during the go-go Erap years to Lucio' Co of Pure Gold fame and his alleged silent partner, Jose Velarde.

Payumo, on the other hand, is a member of the famous Ateneo High School Class of 1955.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

RP seeks $100-M ADB loan for capital market reforms

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE GOVERNMENT is negotiating with the Asian Development Bank on the terms and conditions of a $100-million program loan, particularly the specific reforms in the capital market that will be tied to it.

In a briefing with reporters last week, SEC Chair Lilia R. Bautista said the Philippine Stock Exchange's demutualization program, or the conversion of the bourse into a stock corporation, was among the reforms that the ADB wanted to tie up with the loan.

The proceeds of the loan, to be released in tranches over in one year, will be used to support the budget requirements of the government. It was, however, specifically designed to improve governance of non-bank financial intermediaries, Bautista explained.

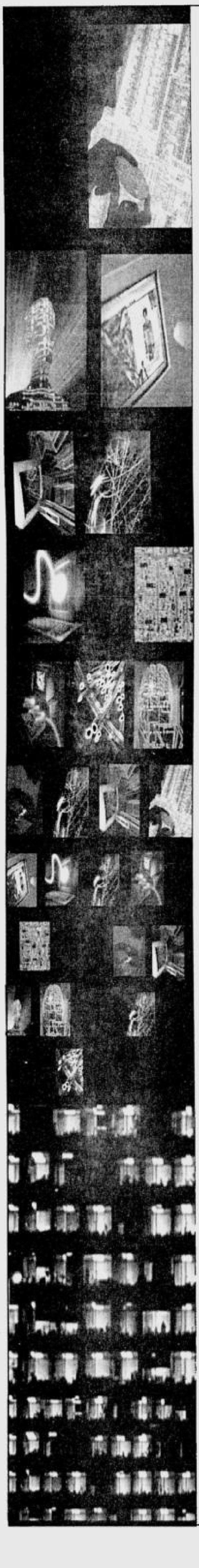
Bautista said the ADB also wanted the SEC to prepare a medium-term strategy for the development of the capital market and to require the PSE's compliance and surveillance group to submit monthly audit reports.

The SEC last year began talks with the ADB for a new loan after a $75-million program loan was cancelled because of the delay in the passage of the Securities Regulation Code. The $75 million formed part of a $150-million program loan for capital market development. The first tranche of this loan was disbursed after the signing of the loan agreement while the second tranche should have been released upon fulfillment of certain loan conditions, including the approval of a new securities code.

The SEC last year received a technical assistance from the ADB amounting to $2 million to promote institutional strengthening and regulation of non-bank financial intermediaries. The government has committed to provide counterpart funds amounting to $850,000.

An inter-agency coordinating committee to oversee the NBFI project is chaired by Bautista. Its members include representatives from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Department of Finance, National Economic Development Authority, Philippine Stock Exchange, Bureau of Treasury and the Capital Market Development Council.

The government is also seeking assistance from the ADB, World Bank and other multilateral agencies to support reforms in contractual savings and public sector reform.



A Call for Ethics on the Use of Information and Information Technology

(www.itethics.ph)

The local and international newsbytes of the last few weeks speak volumes of the dilemma we have brought upon ourselves in this emerging information age.

Some weeks ago, articles came out in the major dailies revealing the continuing deterioration of intellectual property rights protection in the country. The news spoke of a lack of resolve from the private sector to pursue intellectual property rights cases in court; evidently, companies would rather settle cases out-of-court than go through the trouble of pursuing cases to their conclusion.

More recently, a TIME Magazine article portrayed the Philippines as a "Hackers' Paradise." While TIME's portrayal is still to be substantiated in full, such releases speak of the dubious reputation we have earned for ourselves after the Philippine-made Love Bug virus cost the world some $10 billion worth of lost time and data in 2000 alone.

Certainly, the time has come for changes in the way we think about the issue of ethics in the use of information and information technology.

We believe that we must not, in any manner, show leniency to the perpetrators of intellectual property crimes if we are to partake fully of the benefits of the new economy. The unauthorized use of intellectual property, which has become so pervasive in our society, costs us untold millions in terms of potential investment and trade. More importantly, our lack of respect for intellectual property rights continues to stunt the growth of our information and knowledge pool, something that we cannot do without.

Indeed, we have created a situation which requires a new statement regarding our values and beliefs given the changes wrought by the information age. Such a vital, fearless, and frank statement is necessary if we are to make changes that will allow us to chart the course of society and economy in this new landscape.

We therefore affirm and commit to implement the following basic principles:

First: We believe that information technologies such as computers are powerful tools that must be used prudently and with consideration to those who might be affected by it. Three main tenets are operative here:
(1) We will not interfere with other people's computer work.
(2) We will not access other people's computer files without authorization.
(3) We will not use information technologies to commit any crime.

Second: The generation of useful information requires human effort that must be compensated adequately. We are convinced of the intrinsic and independent value of intellectual property and we therefore affirm that the unauthorized copying and use of proprietary material is tantamount to theft.

Third: A strong intellectual property rights protection system is in the interest of the nation. We should not believe that enforcing intellectual property rights means conceding power to the large, faceless, uncaring organization. Where intellectual property is protected, opportunities will soon arise for all.

So stand these tenets of the information age.
We must now set intelligence and will to the task.

WE AFFIRM:

ROBERTO R. ROMULO
Chairman
Digital Philippines Foundation

Hon. FRANCISCO N. PANGILINAN
Senator-Elect
Republic of the Philippines

Gen. REYNALDO G. WYCOCO
Director-General
National Bureau of Investigation

Dr. ESTHER A. GARCIA
Chairperson
Commission on Higher Education

Fr. CARMELO CALUAG, SJ
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NEW ADMINISTRATION

Pension funds trimming excesses of the past

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

(Last of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

THE "PORTFOLIO adventurism" of the Estrada administration has underscored the need for basic changes in the way the Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System are being run. With this in mind, the government is now shifting to a whole new model in addressing the flaws of the country's pension fund system.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo admits that state pension funds, particularly the SSS, are not getting enough contributions from its members to cover claims because of poor governance. For any pension fund to be financially sustainable, the rule of thumb is that the sum of its members' contributions and investment income must always be far greater than the sum of the benefits it provides and its operational expenses. This means that the new SSS and GSIS leadership must not only plug loopholes that lead to abuses. They must also achieve balance between contributions and benefits and keep a tight lid on their expenses.

Everyone used them

Philippine Retirement Income Commission deputy executive director Ernesto Reyes said even those who came before were just as guilty as disgraced President Joseph Estrada of using the SSS and GSIS to promote their political agenda. Although not as blatant as the abuses done under the Estrada administration, their interference in the affairs of the SSS and GSIS were just as damaging in the long term.

Reyes said, for instance, that it was not unusual during past Labor Day celebrations for the sitting president to force the SSS and GSIS to cough up new benefits for their members, although there was no money available to cover for these bonanzas.

"The easiest way to gain '*pogi*' (good) points is to give something more than the existing. To the public, the actions appear good, but the impact is on the future," Reyes said.

To cover for shortfalls, the SSS and GSIS are now relying on earnings from their investments, but these are not as dependable as a steady stream of contributions.

From 1957 to 2000, the SSS collected around P206.2 billion in contributions and paid over P224.8 billion in benefits. Fortunately for the pension fund, it earned some P185.7 billion from its investments, leaving the SSS with P182 billion in assets.

Realigning the portfolio

Since Estrada was ousted by a military-backed civilian revolt in January, the SSS and GSIS had noticeable been absent from the stock market. Without their presence, trading in equities had been lackluster, meaning very few new money had been pouring into the stock market.

It is a bitter pill that the stock market has to swallow. The new heads of the SSS and GSIS believe perking up the stock market must not come at the expense of the retirement plans of millions of Filipinos.

The SSS and GSIS acknowledge that they have a role to play in developing the local capital market, but they have taken on a more conservative approach.

"We are no longer into speculative stocks," GSIS president Winston Garcia said.

"But personally," he added, "I still feel that the capital market is very important for the long-term objective of the pension funds. We can't invest all our money in government securities. There has to be a mature capital market so that we can manage the risks."

The GSIS has earmarked up to P5 billion in fresh funds for initial public offerings, but it has set strict conditions to make sure that the public will benefit from such investments. It also aims to create a secondary market for financial instruments by issuing up to P40 billion worth of assets-backed securities.

SSS president Vitaliano Nañagas II believes there is no conflict between the pension funds' responsibility to the local capital market and to their members.

"The way we maximize our investment income is our participation in the capital market. Theoretically, the capital market should give us better return because we're longer-term investors. That should be better because we could give more benefits to the members," Nañagas said.

He stressed, however, that the SSS and GSIS would have to realign their investment portfolios to reap better yields and offset the adverse impact of the Estrada administration's bad investments.

Still in good shape

The SSS' portfolio distribution is still in good shape. Apart from a 30-percent share locked in stocks, 30 percent of its funds are in housing loans, 30 percent in salary loans while the remaining 10 percent are earmarked for risk-free government securities.

"On the equities side, we can't really do much but move down a little bit. Maybe we could reduce this to 25 percent, but these should be core assets or blue chips," Nañagas said.

In the future, he said, the SSS would shift toward buying debt papers from reputable institutions. "We'll end up holding debt papers, but we won't have to do the appraisal (of collateral) ourselves, such as when granting housing loans," he said.

The GSIS is also in good shape, although it is now trying to cut allocations for risky investments. It currently has 30 percent invested in stocks, 45 percent in salary loans and 15 percent in fixed-income instruments.

Garcia said the GSIS was reducing its investments in equities to only 15 percent of its portfolio, while 40 percent each would be devoted to salary loans and fixed-income investments. The remaining 5 percent would be devoted to its housing programs.

"Right now, I want to simplify the investment of the GSIS into safer, long-term investments, such as fixed-income securities. The reason for this is that I want to segregate a large portion of our funds from the prying hands of politicians. Secondly, we want to help the government manage its debts by investing in long-term government securities. That is one way of helping the government without causing severe crunch in the local credit sector," he said.

No more corporate loans

Both the SSS and GSIS have stopped granting direct corporate loans, an area that has put them in a bad light.

"We've stopped giving business loans because, time and time again, this has proven to be disastrous. We have shelled out billions of pesos lending to people or corporations who have not even contributed a single centavo to the system. After getting the money, they literally run away with it," Garcia said.

He said the GSIS was now aggressively foreclosing properties used as collateral by its debtors to recover whatever was left of its original investments. He estimated that there were about P5 billion to P10 billion worth of assets that might be recovered from these proceedings.

The corporate lending portfolio of the SSS is not as problematic, but it has, nevertheless, stopped the practice of direct lending.

"We are still lending to corporates, but we're taking credit risks from banks. That's the new policy. That's another lesson from the past: We have no business making direct loans except to schools and hospitals. We buy the (debt) papers from the banks instead," Nañagas said.

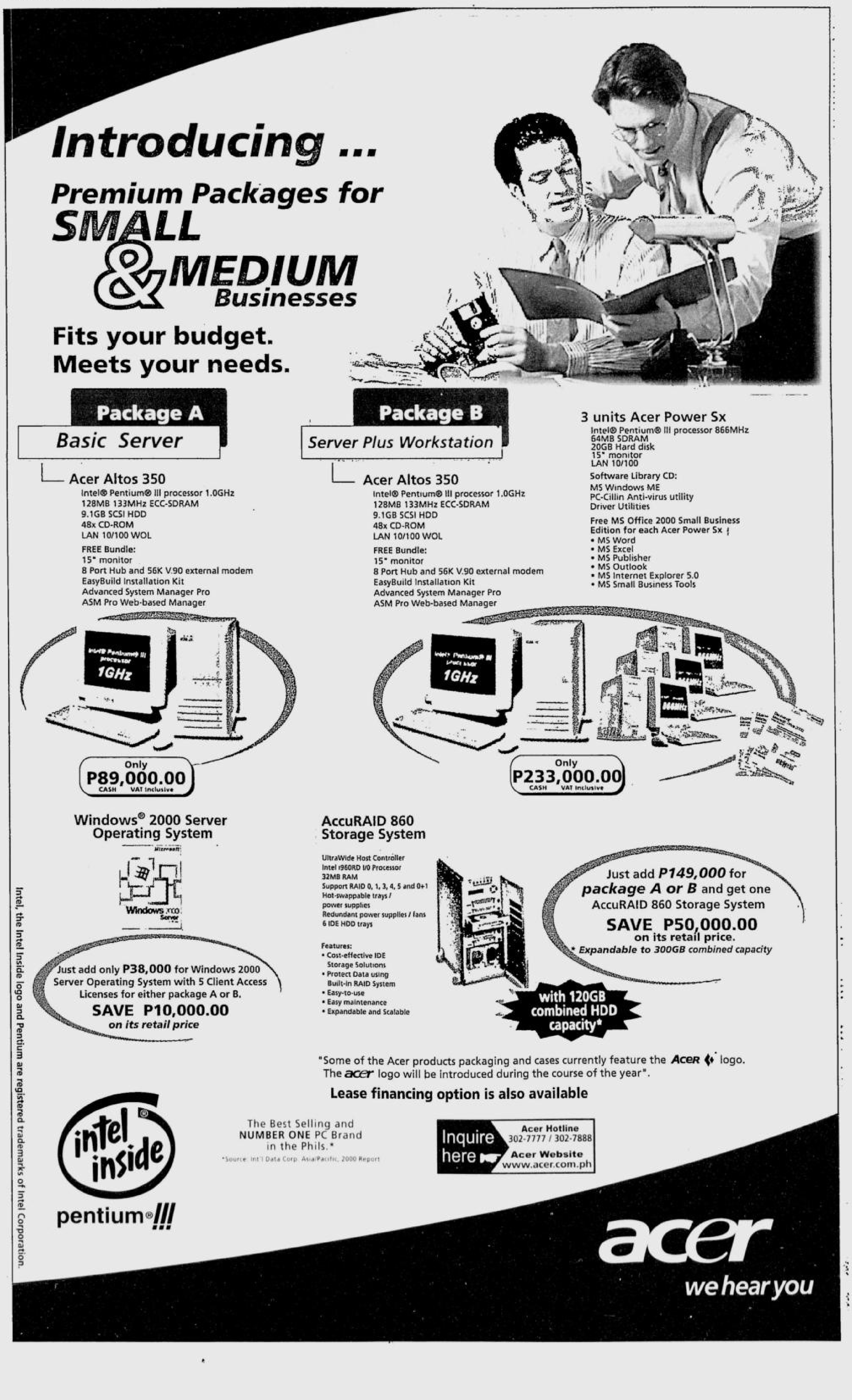
Privatization

The SSS and GSIS, with full support from the government, are also moving toward the privatization of their fund management as one of the measures to protect their funds from political influences.

PRIC's Reyes said: "Even the current Philippine system already allows for some partial privatization. Some of the investments of the GSIS and SSS can already be channeled to private fund managers because some people can do the job better than the government. But now, there are questions like: Will the government simply be the collection and administration agency and then the investment will be handled by private institution?"

Romulo, the former finance secretary, said the SSS and GSIS should start hiring experts to manage a portion of their funds. This, he said, would help the pension funds "achieve greater accountability and performance, and lower likelihood of large bad investments," and remove "their distorting monopoly market influence."

PENSION/ B5



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Domestic liquidity up 13.1% in April

By Clarissa S. Batino

DOMESTIC liquidity—consisting of money in circulation, peso savings, time deposits and deposit substitutes held by the general public—rose by 13.1 percent year-on-year in April after growing 10.5 percent in March, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said.

The BSP said the improved liquidity in the system could be attributed to the six percentage points cut in its policy rates from December to May which must have freed billions of pesos into the system.

It said it would allow domestic liquidity to grow by as much as 15 percent or up to the level appropriate to achieve non-inflationary input growth.

Allowing domestic liquidity to grow means the BSP, through a more relaxed monetary stance, would permit more funds to flow into the system to help encourage increased economic activity.

"The expansion in domestic liquidity could be traced to the sustained rise in reserve money, which grew by 9.6 percent in April, and the greater supply of credit being channeled to the economy," the BSP said.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said local monetary authorities could still bring down the central bank's policy rates if the inflation rate would continue to drop and if the US Fed would cut its rates.

Based on BSP data, the monetary easing stance of the central bank appeared to be benefiting largely the national government than the private sector.

Of the P191 billion in borrowings that the national government will raise this year, more than 60 percent will be taken from the domestic market while the balance will come from overseas markets.

Net domestic credits, covering all borrowings in the local system, grew by 11.6 percent in April from 11.3 percent in the previous month.

The growth was largely on account of a 21.6-percent increase in public sector credit, slightly lower than the 23.1-percent increase in March.

The BSP had projected a 10-percent improvement in credit this year, higher than last year's growth of 7 percent.

15 IPPs joining rural electrification program

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FIFTEEN independent power producers yesterday committed to participate in the government's rural electrification program.

In the agreements signed by the 15 IPPs and the Department of Energy last Monday, the power producers agreed to provide electricity to villages near their respective facilities. The agreements, however, did not give the details of the arrangement.

The IPPs participating in the program are Alstom Philippines Inc., Alsons Consolidated Resources, Electrobus Consolidated Inc., Edison Global Electric, East Asia Diesel Power Corp.;

Duracom Mobile Power Corp., Sunrise Power Co., East Asia Utilities Corp., Cebu Private Power Corp., Covanta Energy Philippine Holdings;

Cal Energy Development Co., Quezon Power Philippines., San Pascual Cogeneration Co. Philippines, State Power Development Corp. and Minergy.

On top of the 15, two other IPPs (Mirant Philippines and Luzon Hydro Corp.) have committed to shoulder the cost of providing electricity to 64 remote barangays.

"The affirmation of their commitments to participate in the program is symbolic. Having electricity is emancipation for our poor countrymen," former Energy Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho said.

Camacho, who is now finance secretary, signed for the Department of Energy since the agreements were finalized two weeks ago when he was still the energy secretary, while newly appointed Energy Secretary Vincent Perez witnessed the signing.

During his four-month stint at the DoE, Camacho identified rural electrification as his priority.

In April, Camacho asked 28 IPPs to help provide electricity to remote and isolated barangays, particularly areas hosting power projects.

"It is awkward to think that we have a power plant somewhere and the people living near it do not have electricity," he said.

The government reported that about 7,500 or roughly 18 percent of the country's 42,000 barangays were without electricity. The government aims to provide electricity to all these barangays by 2004.

Pension funds trimming excesses of the past

(From page B5)

Garcia agreed with Romulo that the money entrusted to the SSS and GSIS should be managed by professional groups.

"We should privatize the management into 10 or 15 managers who will manage the funds of the pension funds," he said: "All that the GSIS and SSS would do is monitor the performance of these fund managers."

Nañagas shared this opinion, but he had drawn flack from some SSS employees who believed privatizing the SSS would lead to retrenchments.

The SSS and GSIS have already done away with an old system that favored only a few stockbrokerages, another excess of the Estrada administration.

This system gave stockbrokerages with close ties to the Estrada administration preference in the handling of the SSS' and GSIS' stock investments. Among the "favored ones" were Wealth Securities Inc.. Topwin Securities Inc., Lucky Securities Inc., All Asia Securities Management Corp., Belson Securities Inc., Eastern Securities Development Corp., Papa Securities Corp. and Guild Securities Inc.

Topwin, despite being one of the newest players in the industry, became one of the country's top brokerages because of the volume of transactions it got from the SSS and GSIS. Its links to Estrada was traced to former B-movie actress Joy Melendrez, one of the former president's mistresses and a director of the company. When Estrada stepped down, Topwin went bankrupt.

Contributions vs benefits

Between the SSS and GSIS, the SSS has been the focus of more concern because it collects less from its members than the GSIS. The SSS collects only 8.4 percent of the earnings of its 23 million members as against the GSIS, which collects 17 percent from its 1.5 million members.

Nañagas said the smaller contribution was one of the reasons why the SSS' assets were now only slightly higher than the GSIS'.

Romulo believes it is necessary for the SSS to raise resources from its members' contribution through adjustments that include: increasing the number of contributions per year to qualify for one year of credit service; raising the salary ceiling in tandem with an increase in contribution; and, imposing a moratorium on across-the-board increases in pension benefits.

Nañagas attempted to implement such changes early this year, but ran into stiff opposition, especially after reports about the Estrada administration's shenanigans came out.

Nañagas said he would have to wait until the economy improved.

"To make a long story short, all of our activities will be such that there will be no losses from collection and there will be more gains from investment income. We'll make operations more efficient and hold off increases in benefits," he said.

In the case of the GSIS, Garcia believes there is still some room to give its members more benefits but in a way that will augment its earnings. He said the GSIS could, for instance, open an initial P6 billion worth of direct housing facility to its members.

Looking ahead

Over the long term, Romulo supports the PRIC's vision of a multi-pillar structure for the Philippine pension system, where the government's role in providing a well-regulated environment will allow private participation to flourish.

The SSS and GSIS will only be one of the components of the proposed multi-pillar structure which will have the following four pillars:

- A separate social assistance pillar with a universal, well-targeted social assistance program aimed at the aged, needy and the poor who cannot contribute for their own benefits later on;
- A mandatory defined benefit pillar consisting of a merged SSS and GSIS;
- A mandatory defined contribution pillar where individuals will be empowered to manage their own funds to cover needs beyond the basics which can be provided by the defined benefit pillar; and,
- A voluntary pillar, which will leave enough market for private financial institutions who also offer retirement and pension plans.

"To achieve this vision, government would need to provide a level playing field to foster competition within each pillar, including removal of tax and regulatory arbitrage among retirement income products. With a well-regulated system, governance problems will hopefully be limited and eventually eliminated as the first and second pillars are downscaled and the private sector takes over investment decisions in the third and fourth pillars," Romulo said.

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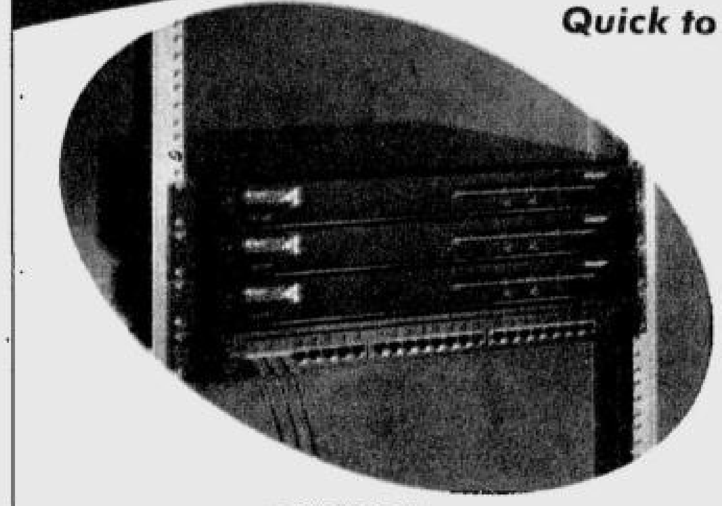

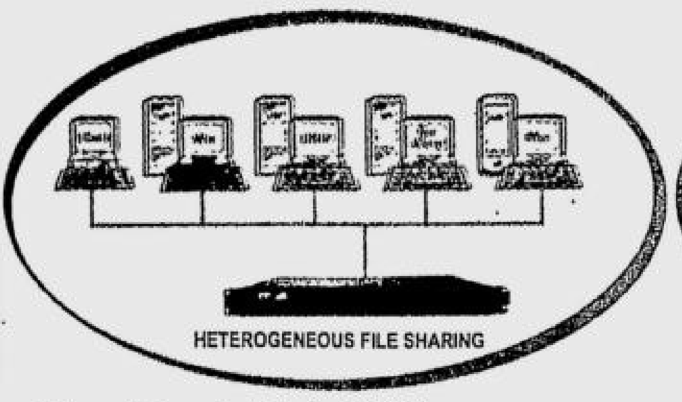

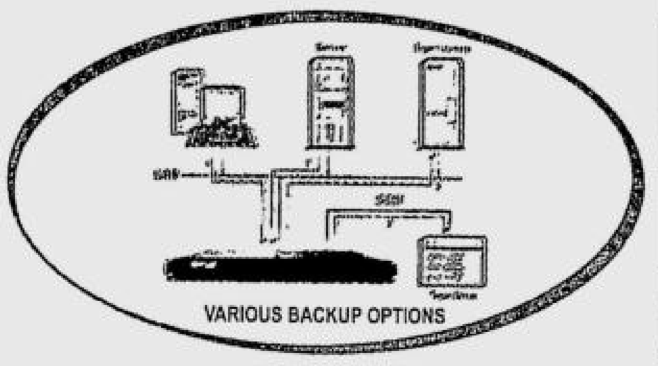

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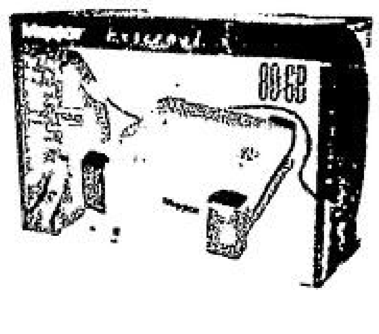

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Asia forecasts cut as downturn bites

SINGAPORE—The moribund global economic outlook and, in particular, the US slowdown has seen economists lop sizable chunks off this year's growth forecasts for Asia's regional economies.

Of the 13 countries surveyed in the latest quarterly Reuters economic survey, 11 had growth forecasts pared back compared with a similar survey three months ago.

Around 126 banks, investment houses and economic analysts were surveyed by Reuters bureau around the region last week.

Almost to a man, economists cited the global economic slowdown as the major negative for export-dependent Asia, although a slower than expected pick-up in domestic demand, as unemployment stays high and political uncertainty threatens stability at home, was also a major factor.

Last month, the United States surprised economists with a downward revision of its first-quarter growth to 1.3 percent from a previous estimate of 2 percent as companies slashed inventories at the fastest pace in 18 years.

The survey was conducted before Japan's first-quarter gross domestic product numbers on Monday, which surprised on the downside with a 0.2-percent quarter-on-quarter fall compared with expectations for a similar-sized rise. Another contraction looks almost certain and two negative quarters will mean Japan is in a technical recession.

"Obviously Japan is still a very crucial part of Asian growth, but I think a lot of the downside has been priced in at least into regional growth prospects and it's no shock that (Japan) GDP this year is most likely going to be negative for the calendar year," said Steve Brice, treasury economist at Standard Chartered in Singapore.

Growth forecasts for Taiwan this year were savagely cut back to 2.9 percent, well down on the March survey of 5 percent.

"The global economic slowdown is much more serious than originally expected," said Capital Securities economist Hsu Kuo-an.

"We still don't see demand picking up anytime soon. Exports are weak, while private investment will turn more cautious." *Reuters*

Korea hit by industrial strikes

SEOUL—Pilots grounded most flights at South Korea's flagship Korean Air Lines yesterday as unions launched nationwide strikes for shorter work weeks and hefty raises, but the government said the actions were illegal.

Militant industrial unions were protesting against government-led economic restructuring as well. The country also faced a planned strike by hospital workers on Wednesday.

President Kim Dae-jung warned after a Cabinet meeting that the unions' strikes were shaking social stability and the government would sternly deal with the illegal walkout and any violence.

"We will become a loser overnight in global competition if we stop restructuring," Kim said in a statement. "If we cannot restore social order, foreign investors will stop investing in Korea and domestic investors will leave for China and Southeast Asia."

He also said the government would not tolerate illegal and violent strikes.

Korean Air said its first international flight on Tuesday, a B777-300 passenger carrier bound for Manila, could not take off because of the pilots' strike and about 80 percent of its fleet of 111 planes would inevitably be grounded.

Ground workers at the country's second-ranked Asiana Airlines also walked out, affecting the carrier's domestic flights.

"All our international flights are normal," said Ahn Jae-hwan, a spokesman for Asiana Airlines.

"Only on domestic routes, 82 flights would be cancelled today out of 206 flight schedules on a normal day," Ahn said.

Unions of the two airline companies have failed to narrow differences with management over working conditions and wages.

About 1,400 union members of Korean Air's 1,875 cockpit crew want to set up a committee to discuss flight regulations with the company.

But Korean Air, which had in principle agreed to the suggestion, has opposed the union's proposal the committee should allow a 50 percent participation from the union.

Militant South Korean unions in metal, chemical and heavy industrial companies also downed tools nationwide on Tuesday, defying the government declaration a strike was illegal and setting up a possible violent confrontation with security forces. *Reuters*

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Currency intervention works–bankers survey

WASHINGTON—Currency market intervention does influence exchange rates, but it is unclear how long it takes for such moves to have the desired effect, according to a survey of central bankers.

While some said an intervention's effects could be seen in a matter of minutes, some said it took "more than a few days."

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis asked the European Central Bank and 43 national monetary authorities a range of questions regarding their currency intervention practices from 1990 to 2000.

Twenty-two central banks responded, including the United States, Canada, Japan, Mexico, France, Spain and Germany. The ECB—which had to wade into the market to prop up the foundering euro on several occasions last year—did not.

Of the respondents, only New Zealand said it had not intervened at all from 1990 to 2000, according to the survey which appeared in the recently released St. Louis Fed "Review" publication for May and June.

Nations unanimously said intervening in currency markets was successful in affecting exchange rates.

"All of the respondents indicate that they think intervention has some effect on exchange rates," St. Louis Fed senior economist Christopher Neely wrote.

But the survey respondents were divided on how long it takes for an intervention to fully impact the market. Nearly 40 percent said it only took a few minutes for an intervention to make its mark, while 22 percent said it took a few hours.

But 28 percent said it took a few days and 11 percent said it took even longer.

"The dispersion in the survey is substantial, indicating almost as much discord among central bankers as among academics," Neely said. *Reuters*

Bush says US economy still has 'ways to go'

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush said Monday that while he had confidence in the fundamental health of the US economy, it was not currently doing as well as his administration would like.

"We've got ways to go before the economy is as robust as we like it, but we're optimistic about the underlying strength of the American economy," Bush told European journalists in an interview ahead of a trip to Europe.

Bush was to leave Monday evening for Spain on his first overseas presidential trip that will also take him to Belgium, Sweden, Poland and Slovenia.

The six-day trip includes a meeting with Nato allies, a US-European Union summit in Gothenburg, Sweden, which will discuss the US and global economies. It also includes his first meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Slovenian capital Ljubljana.

Bush said the $1.35-trillion tax cut plan he signed into law last week should help the flagging US economy.

"I think when people begin to realize the extent of the tax-relief plan and the fact that this is permanent, it will help capital investment," Bush said in a transcript of the interview.

US gross domestic product grew at a 1.3-percent pace in the first quarter versus one percent in the final quarter of last year. This was well off the 5-percent growth clip logged for 2000 as a whole.

Bush added that freer trade would benefit both the United States and its trading partners.

"One of the things that's important about my trip and about trips of others in my administration—is we're beginning to make progress on how to more quickly resolve trade disputes that arise," the president said. *Reuters*

Japan Telecom hooks up with China Telecom

TOKYO—Long-distance phone carrier Japan Telecom Co. Ltd. said Tuesday it had agreed to forge ties with China's biggest telecoms company China Telecom.

Japan Telecom president Haruo Murakami and China Telecom president Zhou Deqiang met in Beijing on Thursday last week and signed a memorandum of understanding to build links, the Japanese firm's spokesperson Kazumi Narihiro said.

"Under the accord, the two companies will seek future cooperation in providing telecommunications services," she told AFP, adding that no further details had been decided.

"The agreement thus includes all sorts of possibilities," she said.

The Nihon Keizai Shimbun business daily reported that the two firms planned to cooperate in areas including high-speed communications and mobile phone operations in China.

The duo aimed to launch international high-speed data transmission services using the advanced ATM (asynchronous transfer mode) system, the business daily said.

In the mobile Internet business, Japan Telecom planned to support China Mobile Communications Corp., the Chinese company's mobile phone arm, in the introduction of third generation services, it said.

The tie-up would also help the world's biggest mobile phone company Vodafone Group Plc. of Britain to expand in China, the paper said. Vodafone owns a 20-percent stake in Japan Telecom. *AFP*

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NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. JUDE
O, HOLY ST. JUDE apostle and martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near in kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present, urgent petition (make your request). In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Saint Jude, pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Pray this nine times a day for nine consecutive days. On the eighth day your prayers will be answered, for this prayer has never known to fail. Please don't forget to publish this once your wish is granted. MTO

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A CARD OF THANKS

In behalf of the family of the late

Mrs. Anita "Ta Nene" M. Camps dela Cruz

who died on May 26, 2001

We, husband **Capt. Leandro dela Cruz**; sons **Christopher** and **Christian**; brothers **Renato** and **Merly Camps**, and **Jesus** and **Fe Camps**; sisters **Erlinda** and **Pacifico Amil** (†), **Flor** and **Rolan Esteban**, **Baby** and **Bert Velarde**, and **Linda** and **Boy de Guzman**; other relatives, cousins, nephews, nieces, friends and those who offered flowers, Masses and prayers—please, accept our most profound gratitude.

We, the children, **Rebecca & Polo Naga** (†), **Alberto & Annie Thrower**, **Jessie & Darlene Dimayuga**, **Edwin & Terry Relova**; grandchildren, relatives and friends announce with grief the death of our beloved

JUANITA "Nitang" OFRIN LAURENA

On June 11, 2001
at the age of 77.

Her body lies in state at their residence at J.V. Pagaspas St., Tanauan, Batangas.

Interment will be on June 16, 2001, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. at Himlayan sa Tanauan, Tanauan, Batangas.

Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again.

2 Cor. 5:4-5

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Widow of the late BENJAMIN R. SABATER, SR.

Who peacefully joined her Creator on June 11, 2001 at the age of 87.

We, **Mely & Pepe Abesamis** (Canada), **Benjamin Jr. & Thelma Sabater**, **Rosario & Roland Ng**, **Elizabeth & Alfred Lim**, **Josephine & Allan Campbell** (Canada) and all her apos; **Mark**, **Deo**, **Rachel & Marizer**; **Mariz**, **Beverly & Carlo**; **Cherry & Bobby**; **Bervelin**, **Kristel & Joey**; **Denzel & Kenneth**, and great grandchildren, **Terenz & Jewel** will surely miss her and her motherly concern.

Her mortal remains lie in state at the Sta. Rita de Casia Parish Church, Baclaran, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 17, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City, after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Sta. Rita de Casia Church.

JOSE DANILO "Danny" VILLEGAS SISCAR

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 7, 2001 at the age of 54.

His loving wife **Linda**; children **Kay**, **Karlo** and **Julia**; mother **Natividad Villegas-Siscar**; brother **Paito**; sister-in-law **Mila**; nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request for prayers for his eternal happiness.

His remains lie in state at 2462 Opalo Street, San Andres Bukid, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 16, 2001 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Center for Health Development (CHD) for Metro Manila is inviting bids from pre-qualified contractor of Inter-Agency Committee classified as Small B/Class C for the Proposed Construction of Pilot Water Analysis Laboratory Building located at Basco, Batanes and Proposed Construction of Four (4) units Public Toilet located at the following municipality (a) Basco - two (2) units; (b) Ivana - one (1) unit and (c) Sabtang - one (1) unit, all in the Province of Batanes. Pre-C forms shall be made available to contractors classified as above upon submittal of letter of intent and latest PCAB license from June 7 to June 13, 2001 at the Office of the Chairman, RIBAC, Center for Health Development for Metro Manila, Welfareville Compound, Mandaluyong City.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished pre-qualification statement shall not be later than 5:00 PM of June 15, 2001. The RIBAC shall post the Pre-Qualified Pre-Disqualified contractor on June 20, 2001 at the Center for Health Development for Metro Manila Bulletin Board. The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on July 2, 2001 at the Office of the Chairman RIBAC, Center for Health Development for Metro Manila.

Dates for the issuance of Bid/Tender Documents for Pre-Qualified Contractors, Submission of Bids and Opening are as follows:

1.	Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents	June 26, 2001
2.	Submission of Bids (2:30 PM)	July 11, 2001
3.	Opening of Bids (2:45 PM)	July 11, 2001

The submission and opening of bids be held at the Office of the Chairman, RIBAC, Center for Health Development for Metro Manila Welfareville Compound, Mandaluyong City. Complete set of bid/tender documents maybe purchased by interested pre-qualified contractor upon payment of non-refundable fee on TWO THOUSAND (P2,000.00) Pesos only.

The Center for Health Development for Metro Manila reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal are evaluated by RIBAC is the most advantageous to the government. The Center for Health Development for Metro Manila assures no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense of loss that maybe incurred in the preparations of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) PURITA S. DANGA, MD, MPH, CESO IV
Director III
Chairman, RIBAC

(PDI – June 7, 9 & 13, 2001)

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID (2PQ0299RCC-004)

The GENCO-1 Regional Contracts Committee (RCC) is inviting contractors to prequalify and to bid for the **SUPPLY OF SECURITY SERVICES FOR THE FOLLOWING GENCO-1 PLANTS, FACILITIES AND REGIONAL OFFICES**

Schedule I - BTPP
Schedule II - BCCPP
Schedule V - MEC/MSG
Schedule VI - RBO

Application for prequalification is open to wholly owned Filipino Private Security Agency with valid license issued by the PNP-SOSIA and with at least three (3) years experience.

Applicants may participate and prequalify for two schedules but the award of contract will be limited to one schedule. Previously prequalified agencies may maintain or choose another schedule but have to comply with the requirements, and for those who were awarded the contract for Schedules III, IV and VII will no longer be entitled in any prequalification and bidding activity.

Prequalification Forms shall be available for issuance starting **June 07 to 22, 2001** at the Contracts Management Office (CMO), Third Floor, NPC GENCO-1 Building, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila. Applicants shall be issued Prequalification Form upon presentation of original copy of the applicant's PNP-SOSIA License, together with the Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) per copy.

For purposes of prequalification and bidding activities, the following schedule will be observed:

Submission of Prequalification Documents	June 27, 2001	8 AM to 6 PM
Issuance of Bid Documents	July 20, 2001	8 AM to 5 PM
Pre-Bid Conference	July 27, 2001	10 AM
Submission and Opening of Bids	August 7, 2001	10 AM

The NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the Corporation. The NPC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparations of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) LORNA T. DY
Officer-in-Charge, RAFS
And Chairman, RCC

(PDI – June 7, 13 & 19, 2001)

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
J.P. Laurel Avenue, Davao City
Tel. No. (082) 221-9400 connecting all departments
Fax No. (082) 226-4885

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY/APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All interested contractors with category PCAB D and above, and IAC Special Classification on Well Drilling or Water Supply are invited to participate in the bidding for the **EXPLORATORY/WELL DRILLING OF THREE (3) PRODUCTION WELLS**, using Rotary Method, here in Davao City.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of each well, and its location are as follows:

1)	Alambre, Lubogan Well	Php 3,527,956.96
2)	New Loon, Mintal Well	Php 3,046,942.78
3)	Malagos Well (near DCWD reservoir)	Php 3,553,244.42

Pre-C/eligibility requirements are available at the DCWD BAC-B office starting **June 11 to 19, 2001** during its business hours. **Deadline for the submission of Pre-C documents** will be on or before **June 26, 2001. Bidding proper** is scheduled on **August 13, 2001 at 3:00 p.m.**, at the DCWD Board Conference Room.

The DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities therein, or to award the project to a bid that is considered most advantageous to the agency.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. WILFRED G. YAMSON**
Chairperson, Bids & Awards Committe-B

(PDI – June 8 & 13, 2001)

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
Diliman, Quezon City

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The University of the Philippines - Diliman Bids & Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested contractors to submit their prequalification documents for the Infrastructure Construction & Renovation Projects of UP Diliman for the calendar year 2001. Only licensed contractors (at least Category C) with IAC registration will be accepted. Specialty contractors for Landscaping, Electrical, Waterproofing, Communication and other Infrastructure specialty works will also be prequalified as separate groups. Contractors who are eligible will be invited to bid on the following Projects:

PROJECT TITLE

1. AMOR Projects, NSRI, MBB
2. Coll. of Architecture Bldg. 1, Phase 2
3. Proposed Faculty Lounge and Store Room, CSSP
4. College of Music Annex Bldg., Phase 2
5. Completion of EEE Bldg., Coll. Of Engineering
6. Computer Laboratory, CSSP Dept. of Euro. Languages
7. Proposed Gutter and Downspouts at Bocobo Hall
8. Construction of Fence, FLCD/CDC, CHE
9. NIP Building, Phase 1-B, Institute of Physics
10. CSWCD Bldg., Phase 4-B
11. Electrical Power for ACUs, Math Building
12. Installation of Vinyl Floor Tiles, NSRI
13. Power Supply for Workstations, College of Law
14. Proposed Waiting Shed, Film Center
15. Proposed Water Supply Sys. @ Bolinao Project, MSI
16. Renovation of MBA Classrooms, CBA
17. Repair of Gymnasium Roof, CHK
18. Renovation of Toilet & Kitchenette, CBA
19. Retiling of Floors at Lobby and Corridors of Malcolm Hall
20. Renov. of Toilets and Rehab. of Plumbing Sys., Malcolm Hall
21. Rewiring & Rehab. of Electrical System of Benton Hall
22. Repainting of Interiors, Malcolm Hall, College of Law
23. Site Works, UP Mindanao Guest House
24. SOLAIR Bldg., Phase 3
25. Structural Crack Repair, Inst of Chemistry
26. Structured Cabling System: AIT Building
27. Structured Cabling System: College of Fine Arts & DIO
28. Structured Cabling System: Community Affairs Building
29. Structured Cabling System: CWS
30. Structured Cabling System: Engineering Library Building
31. Structured Cabling System: German Yia Hall
32. Structured Cabling System: Gonzales Hall
33. Structured Cabling System: Melchor Hall
34. Structured Cabling System: New CSWCD Building
35. Structured Cabling System: Office of Ardmissions
36. Structured Cabling System: OVCRD @ PHIVOLCS Bldg.
37. Structured Cabling System: Palma Hall
38. Structured Cabling System: PNB Bldg, UPHS
39. Structured Cabling System: SOLAIR Building
40. Structured Cabling System: Virata Hall
41. Structured Cabling System: Virata Hall
42. Upgrading of Electrical Entrance, Bocobo Hall
43. Upgrading of Electrical Entrance, Bocobo Hall
44. Various Renovation Works @ Albert Hall, MBB
45. Various Renovation Works @ Albert Hall, MBB
46. Various Renovation Works, UPHS

Prequalification forms are now available at the Office of the Campus Architect (OCA), Coral Building, Lakandula Street corner De los Reyes Street, UP-Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of P200.00. Please call 920-5301 local 8032 / 8033 or 927-8656 for further inquiries.

A letter of intent addressed to the Chancellor through the BAC is to be submitted to the Office of the Campus Architect together with the accomplished forms. Deadline of submission of prequalification or eligibility documents is on or before 5 p.m., June 18, 2001.

The University reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any required formality in the bids received, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to the University. The University assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any firm for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid proposals, nor that it guarantees that a selection will be made.

EMERLINDA R. ROMAN
Chancellor

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Derailed promotion led to career success

By Cecile G. Garcia

A PROMOTION that did not materialize led Josie O. Santamaria to build Career Systems, Inc., a consultancy firm that helps people develop their life careers.

Santamaria started out as a teacher. She taught high school at the Philippine College of Commerce and later on, college at the University of the East. A good part of her 20-year teaching career was spent at the De La Salle University, where she handled graduate and undergraduate classes. She was well equipped for the job being a BS Psychology graduate, cum laude, and a holder of MA and Ph.D. degrees from the University of the Philippines. Her accreditation as a certified trainer on Life Career Development Systems from the University of Michigan also bolstered her credentials.

But Santamaria chose to turn her back on the academe when she encountered a personal crisis—an expected promotion failed to materialize. Let down, she decided to strike out on her own. "I also wanted to find out how the principles and theories I had been teaching would apply," she says. In brief, that was how Career Systems came about.

Santamaria is president and senior consultant of Career Systems, Inc. "Essentially, our job is to transform people and organizations," she says. Santamaria put up Career Systems with the help of a friend in 1983. They were later joined by Santamaria's husband, Jorge, an erstwhile marketing man connected with Mead Johnson, who now co-manages the firm with her.

Career transition

Coping with the transition from the secure structured world of the academe to the less stable and more challenging ambience of consultancy was not easy. Says Santamaria, "I had to depend largely on my inner resources, my faith in God and my husband who was helping me."

CAREER*Tales*

According to Santamaria, the crises she had undergone, the trials and missed opportunities prepared her for her present career. "To have the heart of a consultant," she says. "I believe one must first experience real life."

Santamaria, whose expertise include leadership development, personal growth and career development, does mostly consultancy work, which she says is broader and more stimulating than training. Her training skills come in handy mainly in coaching and testing the competence of consultants the company employs on a per-project basis. "This is where my teaching experience comes in handy," she says. "Teachers make good trainers."

Consultancy skills

In order to succeed in a consultancy career, opines Santamaria, one must have some kind of expertise. "He can't be merely a jack-of-all-trades. He has to be good at something." What, then, in her opinion, are the skills necessary? "Sharp, sensing skills for one," she replies, "because very often, a client's needs are not verbalized. One should be able to identify these after diagnostic work." This is why diagnostic skills are imperative as well.

Communication skills are, of course, basic and this includes assertiveness. "One has to be able to deliver bad news with the good. He has to be truthful." In addition, says Santamaria, one must have the ability to get along with people within the organization. "Whatever level they belong to, one must be able to relate and work with them."

But, more than anything, stresses Santamaria, one should feel deeply about his work. "He must be in love with it and must love it passionately," she says. Yet, regardless of this passion, one must learn to let go as Santamaria has. "If one finds out his service is no longer needed, which sometimes happens when a company reorganizes or retrenches, he should be able to move on and go wherever God leads him."

Because of these high standards that she sets for her consultants, she'd rather not hire very young consultants, who are fresh out of college. "I prefer them to be a little more seasoned. I also make sure that their personal and family life are in order," says Santamaria. Career Systems has nine consultants on call and a full-time staff of seven.

Advocacy

Santamaria feels God has led her where she is for a purpose. "I am fulfilling my mission," she says, referring to her profession, which she claims she has never considered a business enterprise.

Santamaria also has an advocacy, which she is dedicated to. Like her husband, she's a member of *Ligaya ng Panginoon* Community, a Catholic Charismatic group. The couple serves as chair of the Parish Pastoral Council of their parish in Merville Park, Parañaque. "We conduct free seminars for them," she says. It's their own way of tithing, sharing their time and talent, which are, of course, precious commodities.

SANTAMARIA

PHOTO BY ROMY HOMILLADA

Everyday, Santamaria encounters challenges. "As a management consultant, a constant challenge is that you are addressing very real concerns and problems of a group or company. You must come up with real and pragmatic solutions, not theoretical ones."

Perhaps a lesser challenge is that of time management, trying to keep a balance between work and family life. Because her children, seven of them, are all grown and very much on their own (a daughter works with her in Career Systems), this is no longer as difficult as it used to be.

Time management

When she was newly starting out as a consultant, recalls Santamaria, she visualized working only three hours a day and then relaxing, which turned out to be completely unrealistic. "But I've learned to segregate and divide my time. I work Monday to Friday. Saturday is for community parish activity and Sunday is for the family."

But no matter how clever she is at apportioning her time, it seems Santamaria can't get away from pressure brought about by the demands of her job—killing schedules and impossible deadlines. She gives an example, "A client needs a proposal right away. I give up my R & R so I can rush it. But sometimes we don't even hear from the client again."

Stress, says Santamaria, comes from the nagging concern related to customer satisfaction. "With every project you worry whether the client is satisfied and happy with your work." Santamaria swears it's enough to cause her a sleepless night or two.

There is also the company's survival to think about. "Revenues fluctuate. We live from payroll to payroll and exist by the grace of God," says Santamaria, whose unwavering faith has seen her through many storms and has always delivered her promptly at safety's door. "Problems and difficulties are part of it," justifies Santamaria to whom what matter most is love for her profession.

Changing mindsets

The best part, she says, and wshat she finds most gratifying is "seeing that you have changed the mindset of people. Change always starts with the individual and comes from within. This can lead to many possibilities and many other changes." Eighteen years of being a management consultant has affirmed Santamaria's conviction that every individual possesses the power to change. "But first of all, he has to be willing," she says, pointing out that her successful career is founded on this basic conviction.

Appreciation of the impact effected by these changes may be immediate or long in coming. But however long it takes and whatever form it assumes—a letter or a card, an e-mail message or a phone call—Santamaria is always happy to learn of it, realizing that it's an unfailing sign that they have succeeded and that she has done a good job.

At this point, she has no wish to stop or retire. "I just want to continue," she remarks, going on to say that the true secret of her success is being able to integrate God, work, family life, service to the community and a little rest and recreation. "It's as simple as that," says Santamaria contentedly.

How do you criticize someone at work?

WORKING WOUNDED

By Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: Some things are really starting to get under my skin at work and I feel like I have to speak up. How can I increase the odds that they'll hear what I say?

Ready To Blow

Timothy Lobdell taught me the key to offering criticism at work. Timothy isn't a therapist or a consultant. He's a convict who made headlines recently for his failed attempt to escape from a Fairbanks, Alaska jail. Oh, Timothy got out of the jail, all right. But according to the News of the Weird, it was the expletive tattooed on his cheek in inch-high letters that made him a cinch to recapture.

Well, just like Timothy, most of us come to work with things tattooed all over our faces. Our biases, blind spots and BS can often be seen a mile away by the people we work with. That's why it's always a good idea to look in the mirror before offering criticism to others. Kathleen Ryan's book "Courageous Messenger" (Jossey-Bass, 1996) is full of advice on how you can deliver difficult messages without having to worry about getting shot. I've adapted the following from it.

1. Do you have a reputation as a troublemaker or whiner? If so, you'll have to repudiate your rep before people are inclined to take your comments seriously. Two tips: 1) make your comments constructive rather than simply complaints; 2) pick your battles: the fewer things you criticize the more seriously each comment will be taken.

2. Are your concerns shared by others? Try bouncing your concerns off others in your company before you unload on a manager. No point triggering the boss' ire if the issue doesn't warrant it. A colleague may also have an idea on how to solve the problem without going to the boss.

3. Does the person you plan to talk to have more clout than you do? Criticize differently to a peer and a supervisor. With a peer you can afford to be casual: "It bugs me when you . . ." With a supervisor you need to articulate your position clearly and logically: "With this modification, I think we can improve our results . . ."

4. Do you have trouble staying cool? If you tend to "get emotional" when criticizing, do a few practice runs first. Anticipate what the person you'll be talking to will say and plan how you'll respond. Also, don't offer criticism in the heat of the moment: give yourself time to blow off steam.

5. Do you sense that people don't trust you? If people don't trust you, they won't seriously consider your comments. If that's the case, you can try getting someone else to deliver your message (a coworker or someone from the Human Resources department). Or you can bring in a neutral third party to referee the conversation in which you plan to deliver your criticisms.

Follow this advice and chances are good that you'll be able to offer your criticism without getting tattooed.

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: What do you do when you have a gripe with your boss? (712 responses)

—Bite the dust, 10.5 percent
—Bite your lip, 42.9 percent
—Bite the bullet, 46.4 percent

Our winning strategy for criticizing someone at work is from K.R. in San Francisco, CA. "Start by asking yourself a few questions. Am I doing this because I don't like the person? Or because they are doing something differently than I would? Next, remember all of the things that you like about this person. This will allow you to approach them with a genuine feeling of goodwill and an appreciation of their good qualities. They'll be more open to hearing it because they won't feel like they're being judged or criticized."

(E-mail feedback to bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

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Innovative ideas converge in ASTD

RECIPES*for* LEARNING

By Moje Ramos-Aquino

IT is sunny and extremely hot here in Orlando, Florida, USA as I attend the ASTD 2001 International Conference and Exposition. One of my personal agenda in coming here is to listen to what's happening in the business of managing, developing and caring for people at work. One side of the ASTD conference being held here at the Orange County Convention Center is talking about how-tos—e-learning, e-this and e-that, strategic planning and technology-aided HRD processes to streamline, make things effective and efficient, and fast track delivery of services.

Innovation

The other more intriguing part of the conference happening at the Disney Institute is talking about innovation DNA, strategic thinking, purpose, value, trust, persons, community, freedom, courage, humor and those other gut-level topics. This is "Convergence: Changing the World with Innovation Communities." In this conference, we have topics like What's Your Heritage?, The Convergence Family, Mythology, Bottom-Up Innovation or Intentional Creativity, New Organizational Models, Make Diversity Work, Make Online Communities Work, The Circle of Life and The Eight Patterns of Beauty. These topics were tackled not in lecture form but with varied methodologies like storytelling, artifacts, labyrinth walk, the Convergence Art Studio, learning councils, Community Drumming, case study, networking breaks, health walk, exploration and self-portrait, harvesting learnings and possibilities, and action planning.

New ideas

Exciting, provoking, challenging, fascinating. Here are some random thoughts and ideas I hear being tossed around. You might want to think and reflect about them and make your own conclusions and action plans. These are from the stories of the innovative and successful companies such as Labyrinth Xperience, Innovation Strategies International, Innovation on Demand, Neenan Company, Village Music Circles, Visa, The Chaordic Alliance, Tropicana Products, Inc., CSX, LivingLab™, Sears Roebuck & Co., One Workplace, 3M, FedEx, Orange County, BP Amoco, Novozymes, StoryNet, Insight Art and Communispace, Inc.

- Deregulate yourself.
- The more anxious you become, the more opportunities to be creative.
- The Wow! of the Week Program
- You limit your experience, you limit your pain, you limit your center of innovation and creativity.
- You do not belong to you, you belong to the universe.
- Individuals creating a leadership mind
- The learners will inherit the earth; the knowers will be left with a world that doesn't exist anymore.
- Do things at the speed of life very slowly.
- Take time to review, reflect and recharge.
- Existential crisis is the crisis in your way of living; these are breakdowns, not breakthroughs.
- Where are you stuck?
- Courage is the first virtue.
- Leadership role in innovation is to create the context.
- People have same DNA as chimpanzees but chimps don't reflect.
- Winning and learning (not losing) teams
- Don't lose your own magnificence.
- Be not only right but righteous.
- Not only have an idea but this idea should add value.
- We are overstaffed but we make enough money to keep on moving. We are not laying off people.
- Avoid zero-sum games—somebody could win at your own expense.
- What will the world be like if we all come from a feeling of abundance"
- If you get drama out of business, you can't get what you want.
- Chaordic = chaos + order
- When you focus on something, you increase it.
- Don't worship or pray to your tools.
- Trust is the sum of perceptions, developed over time, of the dependability and reliability of others.
- We're all responsible for the successful outcome of our interactions.
- What and how is my problem similar to this toy? What could I do about it?
- When you monopolize a conversation, for example you rob the others of their space.
- We are not in the furniture business; we are in the space business.
- Unless you are nimble as a company, you are going to die soon.
- You have to know where you come from to get to where you want to be.
- Things need not be the same. Meeting rooms need not be the same as another meeting room.
- Space is what you make of it.
- Don't be too polite.
- Who else might benefit?
- 3-D work environment
- Celebrate the work.
- Allow employees to move things around the office according to their needs.
- The reality of moving the company is not in formal meetings but in chance encounters and conversations in corridors, restrooms and other areas.
- Empower the creative potential of individuals across business units and career paths,
- Culture of peer assistance
- Engage the people—fascinate them, keep them busy and mesh their gears.
- How do we do it? Shared vision, personal mastery and team learning.
- Go where the energy is.
- Please go out and have fun!

Convergence 2001

Convergence 2001 is a cooperative effort of ASTD and InnovationNetwork. The moving spirits are Suzanne Merrit, Joyce Wycoff and Ruth Ann Hattori. I am now negotiating with these brave and creative ladies to bring Convergence to the Philippines. Only two days into the conference and already we have become one community of learners. International author, speaker, consultant and trainer on innovation and creativity, Allen Fahden, rushed to his cottage to get his laptop when I told him that I need a computer to write and send this column. In all instances the members of this Convergence community really do as they say. No wonder they are very innovative and creative. They are honest and they sincerely like people.

I will report from New York City next column. Ciao'

(E-mail feedback to moje.ramos @aquino.ZZN.com.*)*

Unsung hero feels discrimination

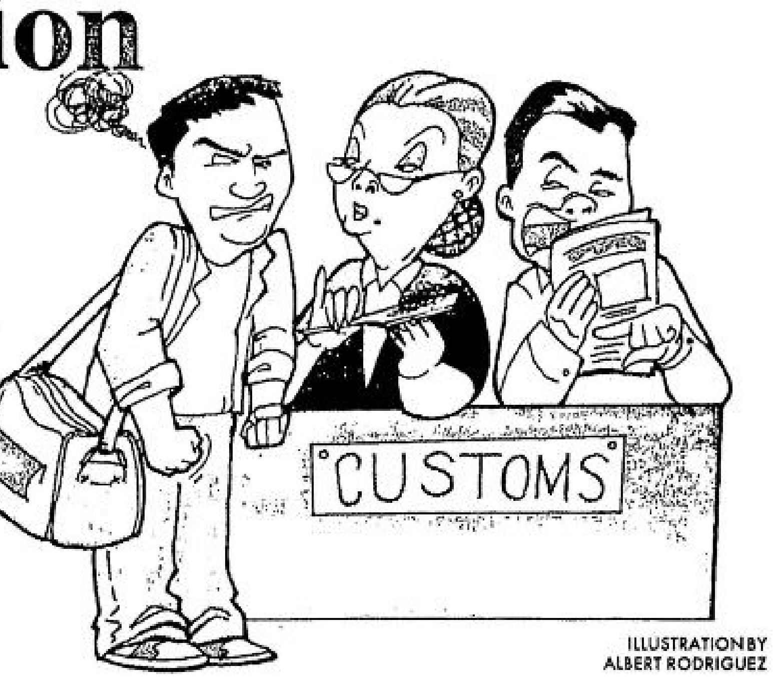


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

BY TITA DATU PUANGCO

Advice

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM an OFW working in Bahrain. I am a well-respected engineer at work. And yet when I get back to the country, I feel I am regarded and treated less at the immigration and customs at the airport. They talk down to us. They do not seem to realize that what is keeping our country afloat are the remittances of millions of Filipinos working abroad, who are going through a lot of sacrifice to secure a good future for their children. How come Filipinos like to discriminate against their own people? We can see that foreigners are treated with more courtesy and respect.

Discriminated Filipino

First of all, in behalf of all Filipinos residing in the country, we want to thank you for all the sacrifices you've made for your family and country. Indeed, you are one of the millions of unsung heroes who keep our country afloat through your remittances, amidst all our economic and political problems.

Travel experience

You mention your experience of being discriminated against upon entry at the airport. Recently, I had to travel to Europe on business with my 24-year-old daughter. Based on my past travel experiences, I make it a point to dress well when going through immigration and customs, then change to something comfortable on the plane. My daughter loves to travel in her blue jeans, a sweater and sneakers. What was our experience? I usually go through immigration and customs cool as a cucumber. A quick glance and I get a stamp on my passport. On the other hand, my daughter would be asked several questions and her passport scrutinized. This happened not just at the NAIA airport but in Frankfurt, Amsterdam and Milan. So, what am I saying? To avoid hassle in airports, why not take the extra effort to dress well, knowing how people often judge others on first impressions.

This is not meant to defend our local immigration and customs officers. Or that judging on first impressions is the right way. But let us explore further the issue of discrimination. Discrimination means judging and behaving negatively towards other people because they are different. We have seen how prejudices and biases underpin discrimination. History tells us the tragic lessons when discrimination becomes a way of life for people or even for entire nations.

One race

But what is interesting are the researches being conducted today, mapping the human genome or the genes in the human person. Scientists are finding out that essentially all human beings are the same, discounting the false view that some races or peoples are more superior than others. And that the whole human race can be traced as having started from a few tribes. These discoveries support the Judeo Christian belief that every person is made in the image and likeness of God and therefore has to be regarded with dignity, esteem and respect. And that in fact, we are all brothers and sisters to one another.

Oftentimes as Filipinos, we are not aware of our discriminatory practices. In international encounters or conferences, we find ourselves making comments on people of other races because of what they wear or how they smell or the kind of food they eat. This I think is uncalled for. One time we had a conversation with friends coming from the West on smell. Can you believe that for them Asians smell somewhat like cooked fish?

Cross-cultural conclusions

Let us examine further some components of our national culture that may explain some of the flaws in our national character. Recently, I had the opportunity to visit the Center on Business Culture and International Management in Amsterdam that is the institution acting as repository of the studies done of Dr. Geert Hofstede on culture and cross culture management. Dr. Hofstede has been able to map out the central tendencies of the cultures of some 100 countries, including the Philippines.

He looks at culture from five main dimensions: power distance, masculinity versus femininity, individualism versus collectivism, uncertainty avoidance and Confucian dynamism. Let us discuss three of them here. His studies may unlock some of the mysteries around our culture which, if confronted, can help us handle ourselves better.

Assertiveness

Power distance is the degree to which the less powerful members of society accept that power distribution is low or high. In our country, the power distance is high. This is demonstrated in how people with no or less authority may defer to people who have authority. This explains why we are very conscious about titles and the kind of jobs we hold. This tendency is underneath our great desire to please people who have power or authority over us or our tolerance for abuses.

In the United States, one can hold a blue-collar job during the day and still get the same and equal respect as a banker when he rides the subway for home. Knowing this, the challenge is to be more assertive without being aggressive. When meeting people of authority make sure your posture, non-verbals as well as your language convey a position of relative equality. Assertiveness, which is recognizing that you have inherent rights while being respectful of the rights of others, can go a long way towards earning other people's respect.

Relationships

The second is masculinity versus femininity. Masculinity means that the dominant values in society are achievement and success while femininity means that more importance is placed on caring for others and quality of life. In our country, our masculinity is relatively high. One can see this in the manner that people are impressed by a man who moves around in the latest and most expensive car or other symbols of success. In Denmark, people are embarrassed to show off their wealth. One may not recognize the richest person in the block because of what he wears or what he owns. For them, not owning a car does not mean the person is not successful. He may not buy a car because of his concern for clean air.

We have to be able to shift our mindset to recognize the essence, going beyond the exterior. Beneath each human being is not someone to be exploited or used but someone who is precious, who surely is the treasure of his or her family. What is important is not what he owns or possesses but his ability to relate and establish solidarity with others.

Collectivist attitudes

The third would be the degree to which a person looks after oneself only and his immediate family. The opposite is collectivism where people belong to groups (such as families, clans or associations) who look after them in exchange for loyalty and are concerned with the welfare of the collective or the extended family or community. Our country is definitely low in individualism and more collective in orientation. While this manifests itself frequently in positive ways, as in the way extended family members provide assistance to others in the family in need, it can also result in the inability to think through issues independently and critically. Collectivity can often result in looking at others outside of one's own circle with suspicion.

So, how do we counter our tendencies towards discrimination? First, have a healthy respect for every person we meet regardless of age, race, sex, nationality, or work. This means building in ourselves the gift of empathy—the ability to put ourselves in the shoes of other people, feeling and thinking what they are feeling and thinking. Doing this can bring joy and fulfillment to one's life. For a human being is never truly human until one is able to overcome one's egoistic tendencies and reach out to others.

Reach out

Second, be the first one to reach out to others. Often, we miss out on precious learning experiences because of fear, self-consciousness or embarrassment. But frequently, we are rewarded with deep and profound friendships. I cannot forget the woman who cleans the toilets in our office building, who I admire for her courage and perseverance in supporting her family. Or the gentleman from Norway, who argued passionately that addressing the negative impact of globalization is a question of justice. Or the activist from Canada and the manner she gets support for the Tobin tax. Surely, once in a while, we encounter people who can disappoint us or let us down, but one has to choose to be optimistic rather than cynical when this happens.

And finally, get into the habit of listening even to the news with empathy. How often do we hear of people getting hurt through murder, rape or violence and take them as simply day-to-day news fare? But one must recognize that for every man or woman who dies or gets hurt, entire families mourn and experience the loss.

Let us therefore urge all our government employees and officials, who are paid to serve the people, to serve with empathy and without discrimination. The person in front of us right now is a human being desirous and deserving of our esteem and respect.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc @pacific.net.ph *or through fax to tel. no. 892-2902.)*

GenXers...

(From page B12)

generation. In climbing the corporate ladder, it is not surprising to be burned out at the age of 25! A few years back, one billboard at C5 captured this sentiment: "No man ever said on his deathbed, I wish I had spent more time at the office." At the risk of this happening to our lives, we have become restless in our search for the ideal, for the job that will not be a job, but something that we will enjoy.

When restlessness sets in, resumes circulate. There is nothing wrong with that as psychologists accept this to be characteristic of the GenXers. Let us not deny that. For if we stay in a place that we have started to despise, work performance suffers as well. And if the workforce is demoralized and discontented, company profitability is also affected somehow.

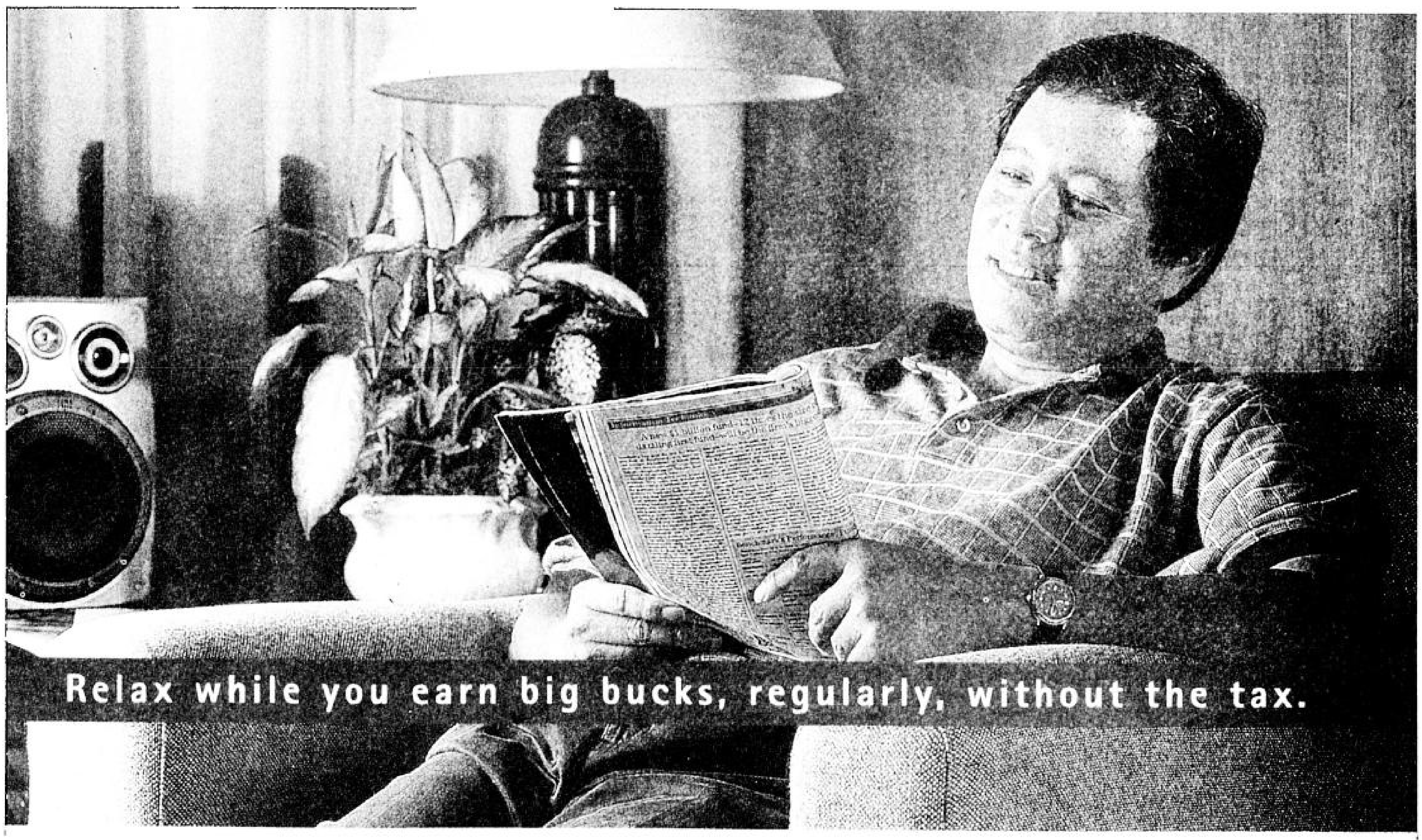
Time to move on

Some telltale signs that we are about to update our CVs are:

- Getting up and going to work in the mornings require so much effort. We'd give up anything to not have to go to that meeting or face our computer.
- Sunday afternoons and evenings become the lowest point in our weekend.
- We bring our "bad mood" from the office back home and snap at our parents and siblings.
- We have lost our drive to succeed. We just take orders and have no more initiative to go a step further.

All we ask from the generation before us is a little understanding until we find what will make us content, until we have learned to conform and accept. And if that time never comes, we will have Generation Y to analyze.

(We invite people at work to share their thoughts, feelings and experiences on work for better understanding in the workplace. Send your musings and reflections from the "corporate edge" to Regina G. Reyes, People at Work Editor, through her email address, rreyes@inquirer.com.ph.*)*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PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■
REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

GenXers search for ideal job

By Melodie Lim-O

I BELONG to generation X, the restless twenty-somethings. What is it about Generation X that makes us restless? The prior generation, like my parents and aunts/uncles, can stay in one company for 20 years or more. For us, spending a quarter of our lives in a company is somehow unthinkable. And nowadays, staying just five years in one job is almost incredible! One must really, really, really be happy and well compensated to stay that long.

POSTCARDS FROM THE CORPORATE EDGE

In my parents' generation, people usually just move once or twice until they retire. They are basically content. I guess that is why it is hard for them to understand why young people keep moving to different companies and changing jobs after just a year or so of work, sometimes even months.

Idealism

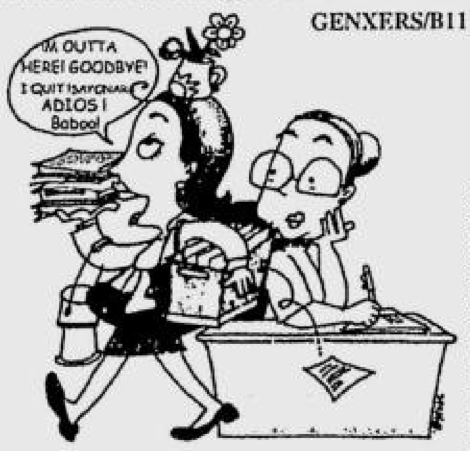
I used to think that it was just I or some companies, but after talking to my peers and friends, I realized that we were in the same boat. People move for a lot of reasons—for better pay, for a better "title" or position, can't stand the boss, can't stand the system, and a whole gamut of other reasons. Maybe Gen X people are just too idealistic or maybe the prior generation just learned to accept that such are the ways of corporate life. This idealism makes us search for the company where we can not only be happy but also believe in what we are doing.

To spend the rest of my working life in one company is really an ideal for me. It means that I really love what I am doing, such that the corporate politics and intrigues are nothing compared to the passion for my work. I would venture a guess as to where this idealism stems from: school and media. Whereas our parents were taught not to question, but to conform and accept, GenXers are taught to seek, discern and question. Hence, we are lost in our search for a better job. We question why corporate life is filled with such politics, and we move on for personal growth.

Burnt generation

"We must work to live, not live to work," is the motto of the idealist GenXer. A generation burnt by the effects of parents working too hard cannot be blamed. The rat race goes on even with this

GENXERS/B11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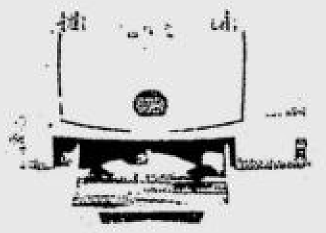

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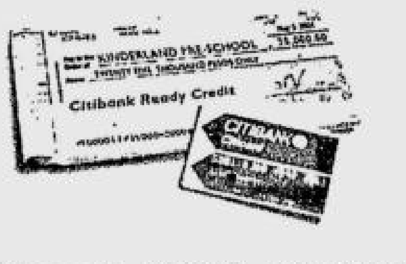

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SPECIAL FATHER'S DAY ISSUE

That man of mine

He is the man of the house (when Mom is away), the breadwinner (although Mom now earns more than he does), ultimate basketball fan (though Mom gets first crack at the TV to watch her favorite soap), and head of the table (where he gorges on Mom's delicious cooking)... In this issue, 2bU! pays tribute to the most important man of your life

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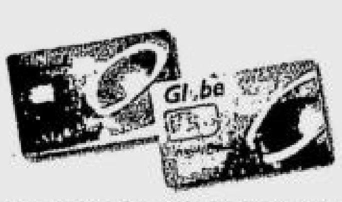

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The dads they grew up with

They have taught their kids sterling lessons in life. They have been there always, selfless and caring

Diehard dad

IN EVERY person's life, there is always that someone who nudges you into doing challenging things. Someone who offers you different options to take, making you believe that you are capable of doing things. To me, it has always been my father, and for that I am very grateful.

If it was my mother who inspired me to write, it was my father who solidly supported me through it. In high school, he would excitedly browse through our school paper, only to break into a delighted grin once he found my article. And he would always complain about the fact that only the editors' pictures were published. It was also he who accompanied me to my interview when I became a finalist in an airline's essay-writing contest. I'm absolutely sure I tested his patience when I couldn't stop babbling about how things went, or how nervous I was that time, but he never showed a hint of exasperation. It was my father who excitedly tore open the telegraph containing the result of the interview, and it was he who consoled me when I didn't make it. It is my father's image—shaking my hands and congratulating me for having my first INQUIRER article on print—that puts a smile on my face.

He doesn't want me to do much work in the house. His reason: so that I could study and write better. He didn't force me to engineering school. Why? Because he wanted me to decide for myself. Add to that some "little" things, like fixing my breakfast, stuffing my wallet with a bit more cash, rereading my articles and compiling them, and you've got one spoiled brat who doesn't deserve his greatest fan.

But what my father doesn't realize is that I'm a diehard fan of his. For it is truly outstanding for a father like him, or any parent for that matter, to love his children despite all the problems they bring. *Jason Doplito*

'Partner in crime'

MY dad is the best. We're partners in crime, you know," I told my best friend quite seriously. Never mind if I was only 4 years old at the time and that "partners in crime" was a big word that never figured in my kindergarten vocabulary class. All I knew was that my father was the best, and that the phrase rang with a coolness that could only define the relationship we had (yes, even if I didn't know what it meant).

The term stuck even if we never got to don the sophisticated suits of the Mafiosi (darn) or end up in a FBI most-wanted list. "Partners in crime" evolved to become a private joke my dad and I shared whenever we covered up for each other. Such occasions were my clandestine driving lessons when I was only 12 or me telling my mom that, yes, Papa was sticking to his diet. Covering up for each other is quite useful (not to mention fun), but it also has its limits. Our version of "partnership" also entails so much more.

Camaraderie. What would happen to real partners in crime (think Bonnie and Clyde) if they did not have friendship to begin with? Their modus operandi would have gone kaput at first base. My dad and I are pals. It is a friendship that is not based on merely sharing the same surname but on sharing a true friendship that has been developed and nurtured through time. Some people told me that this friendship was most apparent in the way we talked to each other. I've always found it easy to talk to my dad. As a child, one of the highlights of my day was when I'd run up to him as he came home from work and greet him with a "Pa, guess what...?" I'd then proceed to regale him with topics, which ranged from "Voltes V" to the monster that (I thought) lived under my bed. Not much has changed from then till the present time. I can still go up to him and talk about anything at all—a book I've read, getting a new watch, or the monster that taught my Math class. This is because my dad always tries to make time to talk to me and my siblings and listen to us with a gravity that makes us feel that what we are saying is important, no matter how absurd it may seem to other people.

Looking out for each other. It's understood that partners in crime have to look out for each other, no questions asked. Authentic partners in crime (read: the real crooks, not us) do this because the mission wouldn't be completed without the invaluable skills of the partner. Much as I find my dad's Math tutoring skills very handy, I look out for him because of an entirely different reason—love (yes, cheesy as that may sound). My dad looks out for me, too. In fact, he looks out for me with a zeal that borders on overprotection. During my debut, an uncle joked that he was surprised to see a handful of guys close to my age as part of the 18 roses. "I can't believe your dad actually allowed you to choose some guys your age for the 18 roses. I'm sure he still set a standard for them. Tell me, how did they qualify?" my uncle asked. "Well, I had to assure him that they were all gay," I replied. (My apologies to those genuinely male friends of mine. I was just kidding).

In spite of my frustration over the curfew he imposes and his scrutiny of my guy friends, I know deep down that all my dad really wants to do is look out for me. He once told me that he wanted to be sure that I grew up with the right morals and that people treat me with the respect I deserve. Even if I rolled my eyes then, I felt touched that my dad cared for me as much as he had.

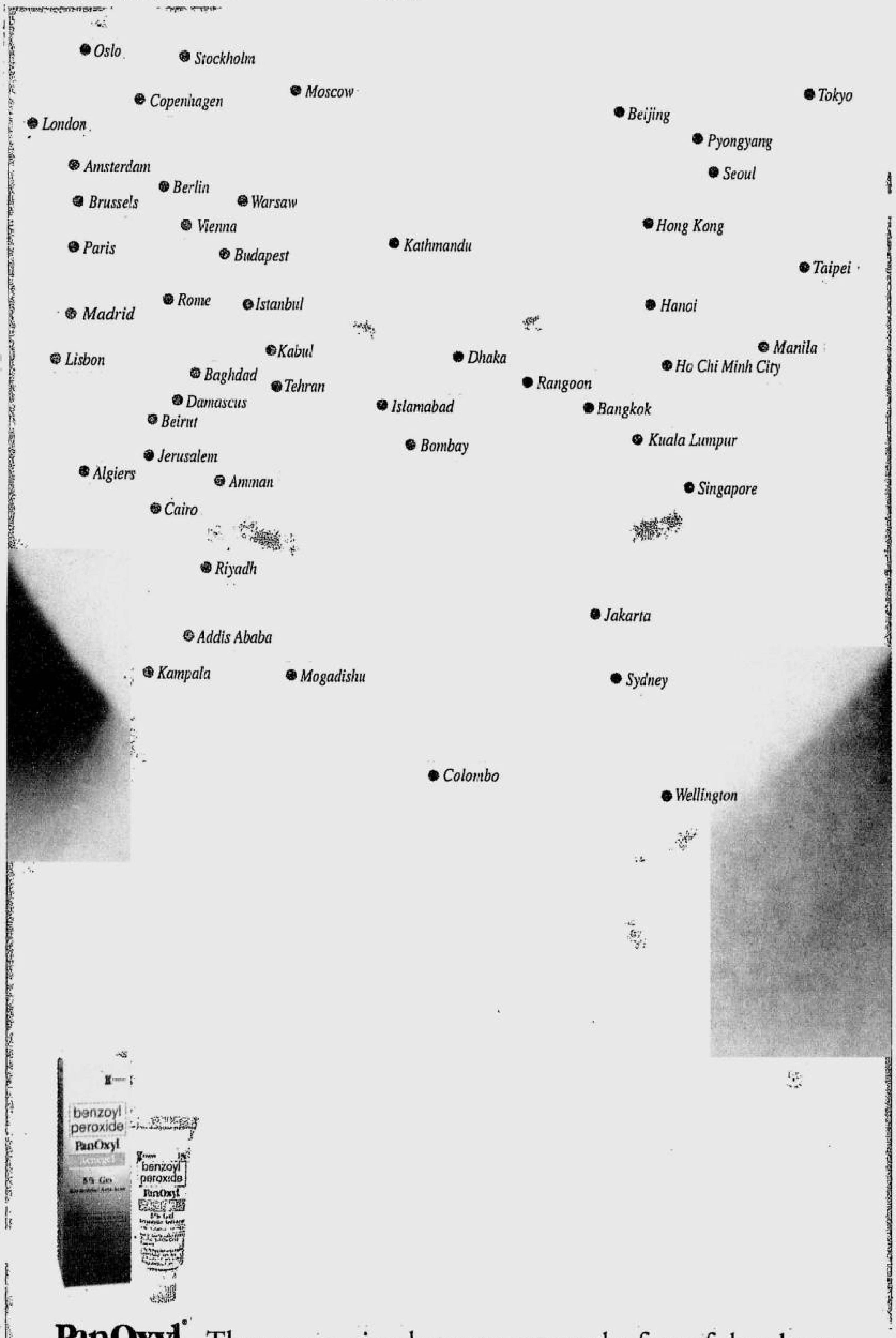
Learning. Sometimes, I wonder what I'd be like as a parent. I'm aware that parenthood isn't exactly a walk in the park and that makes me a bit apprehensive. What would I do during emergencies? Scary thought. Then I realize something that reassures me. When that emergency happens, I'll try to do what my dad would have done in the same situation. After all, I've been learning from my partner in crime for many years now and I have a treasure trove of advice—lessons that encompass humility and hard work, why the Beatles will always be great, the importance of Lola's Sunday lunches, and so much more. Suddenly, parenthood doesn't seem to be as daunting as it seems.

I also like to think that my dad has learned a bit more about life by watching me grow up. After all we're partners in crime—and partners in crime always learn from each other.

To my partner in crime: on behalf of our junior partners (BJ and Louie) and the only person we fear (Mama), happy Father's Day!

Anne Elicaño

THE DAD/ p.C5



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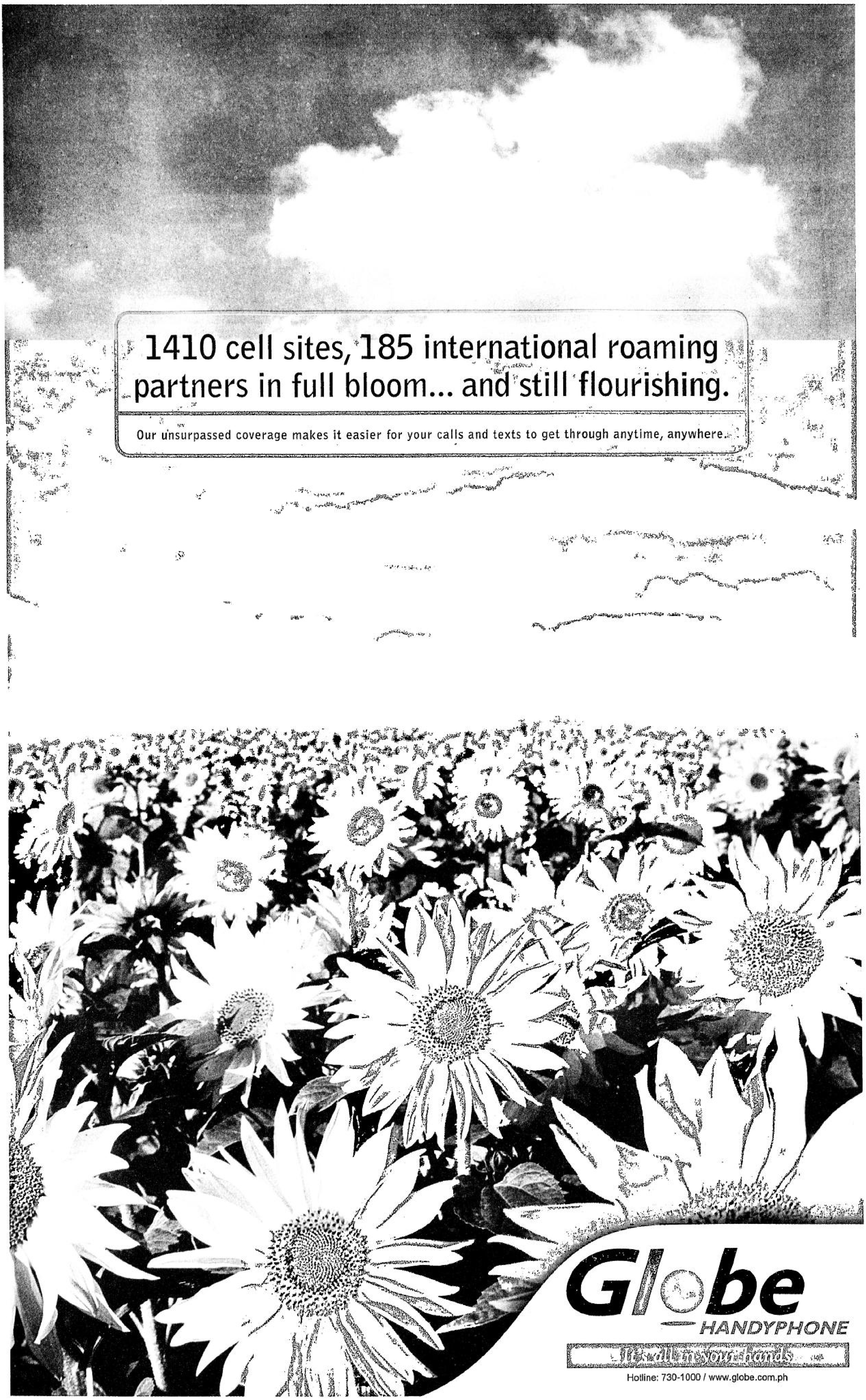

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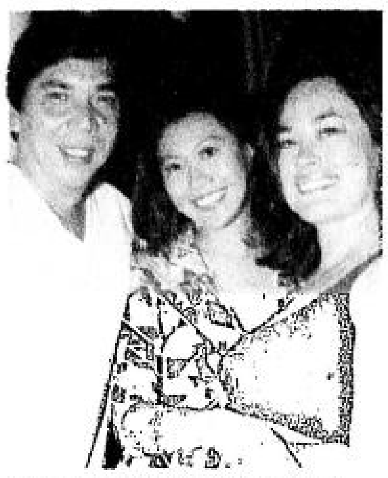

EUPHORIC TRIO. Louie and Cecille Ysmael with Thelina Nuval

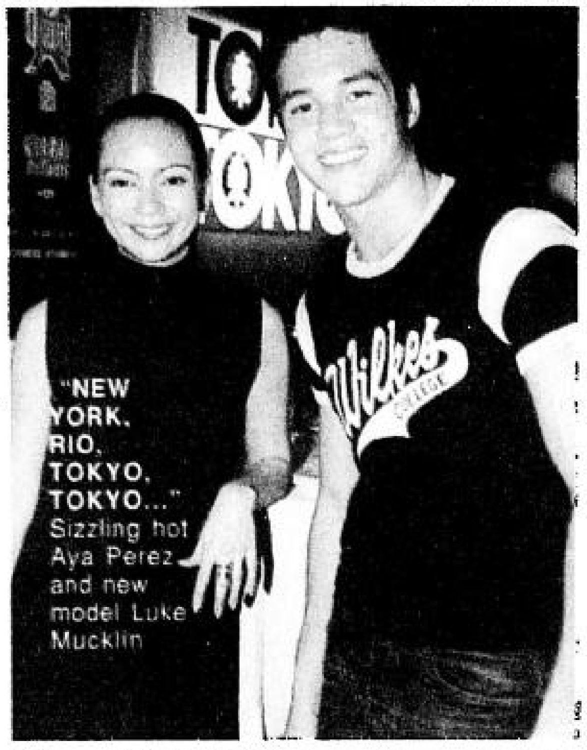
GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN! PMAP's Baba Parma, Rachel Soriano, Maricris Perez and Eazel Don

SPICY DUO. Pepper Teehankee and Tina Pluquet

U TO ME ARE EVERYTHING. The new U floor to open formally tomorrow night via a "Sum of Parts" party, 6 p.m. onward

CRAZY FOR U. Katrina Tantoco and Hindy Weber-Tantoco behind U

Old school, new vibe


"NEW YORK, RIO, TOKYO, TOKYO..." Sizzling hot Aya Perez and new model Luke Mucklin

JUST GOT LUCKY. Miguel Rosales and GP Reyes

TAKE ON ME. Wendy Puyat and Carlo Lopez

VAVA-VOOM! Carmi Martin exudes ageless appeal

CHERISH. Cheri del Rosario with Joel Tantoco in a Ben Sherman shirt

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

ANOTHER day in paradise for Maite Mascarell, Maura O'Connell, Elinor Middleton and Patrisha Kennely

Paparazzi

Tim Yap

HISTORY never felt this fun! No, I'm not talking about some class on war heroes or some Independence Day party. I'm talking about Venezia's tantalizing tribute to the enigmatic '80s era—"Stargazing at Louie Y's."

Okay, for those not familiar with these nightlife artifacts—you and me who were just learning our ABCs the time our nocturnal forefathers were painting the town red—Stargazer's and Louie Y's (yup, named after living legend **Louie Ysmael**) were the club du jour of the '80s era.

It was a time when people dressed to the extremes—in stripes, ruffles and printed shirts—drank champagne the whole night and popped Mogadons and took coke (not the cola variety—as if I need to tell you). Decadent times, indeed.

Not that last week's Venezia party was close to that. No one could replicate the über boozing and schmoozing of years past—not that I would ever know. But that evening's music, magically spun on the turntable by **DJ Wopsy Zamora**, sure transported this generation and all the "Stargazing" guests back to the days when high hair was hip. (Aqua Net—spray, spray.)

Sing-along and dance

The '80s evening started with cocktails by Chivas Regal, Blavod, Vodka Ice and Vodka Cruisers. Chill music permeated Venezia's vestibule as a musical parade of early '80s hits gave the guests a good buzz of the yesteryears.

I saw svelte sirens **Jayne Yu**, **Geena Zablan**, **Rosanna Peña**, power couple **Al and Carla Tengco**, '80s poster gals **Lampel Luis**, **Jomar Munariz** (and others too many to mention) hobnobbing with the scenesters of now, who were all having a great time that night. But what took the cake was the entrance of that era's icon, **Carmi Martin**. "She looks great!" whispered a twentysomething partyphile.

LAVENDER luxe of Patrick Reyno

As the night got deeper, and the people, uh, got tipsier, the music started to reverberate—I could remember most of the songs! And not just me—everybody, as in the whole venue, knew the lyrics to each song that Wopsy smoothly played. It became one big sing-along and dance party. Beat that, Vid-ok!

Louie told me he plans to do this "old school" night regularly. Great! Manila needs more nightlife options, not just the regular techno or band gigs. Other places have R&B nights, chill moments, poetry sessions, Latin beats. Venezia has "nostalgia night"—the more the merrier.

I made a French exit at 4 a.m., dancing to "Life Dance," humming "Rico Mambo..." Yeah!

MIGUEL Aboitiz goes "cruisin' for bruisin'"

MONCHOT Ongsiako dons Miami Vice.

"THAT'S the way, uh-huh, uh-huh I like it!" says Illac Diaz

TITO Herbosa does the hustle.

To be U!

Rustan's throws a big bash this Thursday, June 14, to launch U—the newest lifestyle floor for the youth.

The philosophy of U is to reflect the candor, the exuberance and realism of the young, dynamic lifestyle. Its starting point is to create an environment where an individual can develop his or her style. A venue for a genuine declaration of independence, if you will.

With this in mind, "The Sum of Parts"—a multifaceted "by-invitation-only" kickoff party—with chill, Latin and progressive house beats happens at the U Floor. DJs **Robbie Tantoco**, **Kevin Ruiz** of 78 Orange and **David Jacob** of Club Renaissance take turns on the table, while the city's top young models parade on and off the U-shaped ramp.

Places U'll go

Styling will be by designers **Hindy Weber-Tantoco**, **Rhett Eala** and **Katrina Tantoco** of Rustan's.

Savvy prizes will be given away to spunky guests in Madonna, Angelina Jolie or Dexter's-inspired looks.

The action starts at the cinema level of the Glorietta 4 at 6 p.m. as the "laser" ribbon-cutting takes place. After, guests will be led to a tunnel, which will lead to U—the party begins.

Hang out with the beautiful people at the bar, check out the Sports Zone, and choose from the wide array of stuff in the Shoe Salon, Accessory Haven and Cosmetic Bar. Have coffee at Starbucks, fit some clothes at YVIP, and groove up with your gear in U. The choices never end—it's up to U.

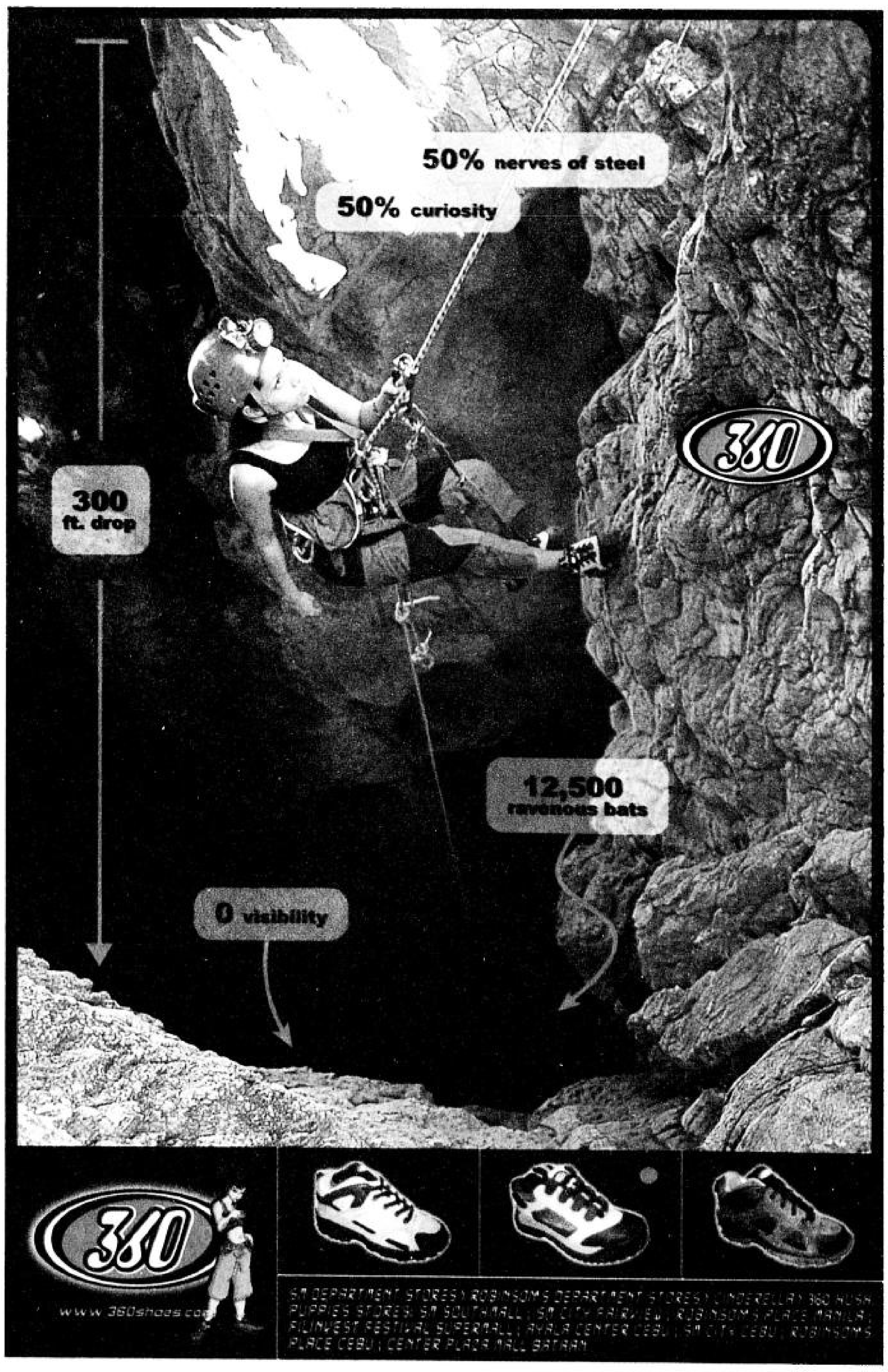
As Dr. Seuss expertly put it—"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own and you know what you know. You are the guy who'll decide where to go. Baby, oh baby the places you'll go."

P.S. I LOVE YOU. Martin Camara, Lampel Luis and Ome Naguid

RAINING MEN. Mikey Montes, Craig Tuazon and Derrick Hibaler

BACCHANALIAN pair Chito Melo and Sarah Cruz

GREAT vibes from Gerome Villarete



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The dads they grew up with

(From page C2)

Daddy groovy

I'M daddy's girl. My parents separated when I was very young. I have a wonderful mom but she wasn't really around much while I was growing up. I only got to see her during Christmas and summer breaks, so it had been pretty much just my dad and I till recently.

Our first year together was a bit funny. He had no idea how to do any of the "mommy things." My mom used to sing me lullabies before bedtime, so he sang "Bohemian Rhapsody" to pacify me (other songs in his quaint lullaby list include "Terminal" and "Operator"). Somehow, "rock-a-bye baby" paled in comparison to "Mommaaaa, I just killed a man..."

In second grade, I kicked a boy. My dad reprimanded me, naturally, but I think he was secretly proud of me. I saw a small hint of a smile. If there was one thing I learned from my dad, it would be never to start a fight or pick on anyone, but if forced into one, one should fight back and win. Besides, he was the one who taught me how to punch. He also taught me how to play softball, basketball and chess. He even attempted to teach me how to play the guitar once, but that didn't really work out. It was a disaster.

He attended a lot of PTA meetings, ballet recitals and singing contests. He also cooked spaghetti for our class Christmas party once. Friends had been volunteering to bring food and I guess I got jealous that they had moms to prepare food for them. So I forced my dad to cook.

These memories seem so old. I haven't seen my dad in two years now. It's really a long story. Basically, what I think is right for me doesn't coincide with what he thinks I should do. I guess I'm trying to avoid seeing that look of disappointment in his eyes when he sees I have not turned out the way he wished I would. It's strange, really, but I think I did. I've grown to be exactly what he reared me to be—brave, strong-willed and independent.

I've made decisions that may appear to others as hasty and immature, but someday I'll prove them all wrong. I just need to figure life out on my own, learn from my own mistakes. Somehow I'll show my dad that I did right by him. Someday I hope he'll see how happy I am, and that maybe he'd be happy for me, too. As much as he finds it otherwise, what he thinks still means the world to me. I'm still his little girl. The same one he pricked with a diaper pin when she was less than a year old. The same one who ran to him when her little heart broke. The same one who cried in the airport when he left, but was just too proud to show it.

Melissa Lim

Reality dad

I FEARED him when I was little. I understood him when I became an adolescent. I adore him, now that I'm a young adult. And I will love him for the rest of his life and mine.

"Love God and trust Him even if His reason for creating us is that He simply wants to play with something." Daddy is always profound but never understated. He allowed Mommy to send us to Sunday school and he arranged for us to be educated in a school managed by nuns. I hear Mass for God but not to hear the priest. Daddy often criticizes men of the cloth. Nevertheless, Daddy encourages us to pray and maintain a personal faith.

"Sorry, there's no more gentleman out there, but, please, marry." I feel lost at times when Daddy gets to hang with kids of my generation more than I do. He doesn't approve of the fairy-tale notion of "knight-in-shining-armor" and he is too pessimistic of males these days. With all these in mind, he wishes that I would marry someone someday.

"It is the law of reward and punishment; reward the worthy and don't hesitate to punish the mistaken." Daddy reminds me of what's right and what's wrong. He has only failed to teach me about gray areas. Black is black and white is white. Either you understand something or you don't. He is against mediocrity, but he admits sometimes compromises must be made.

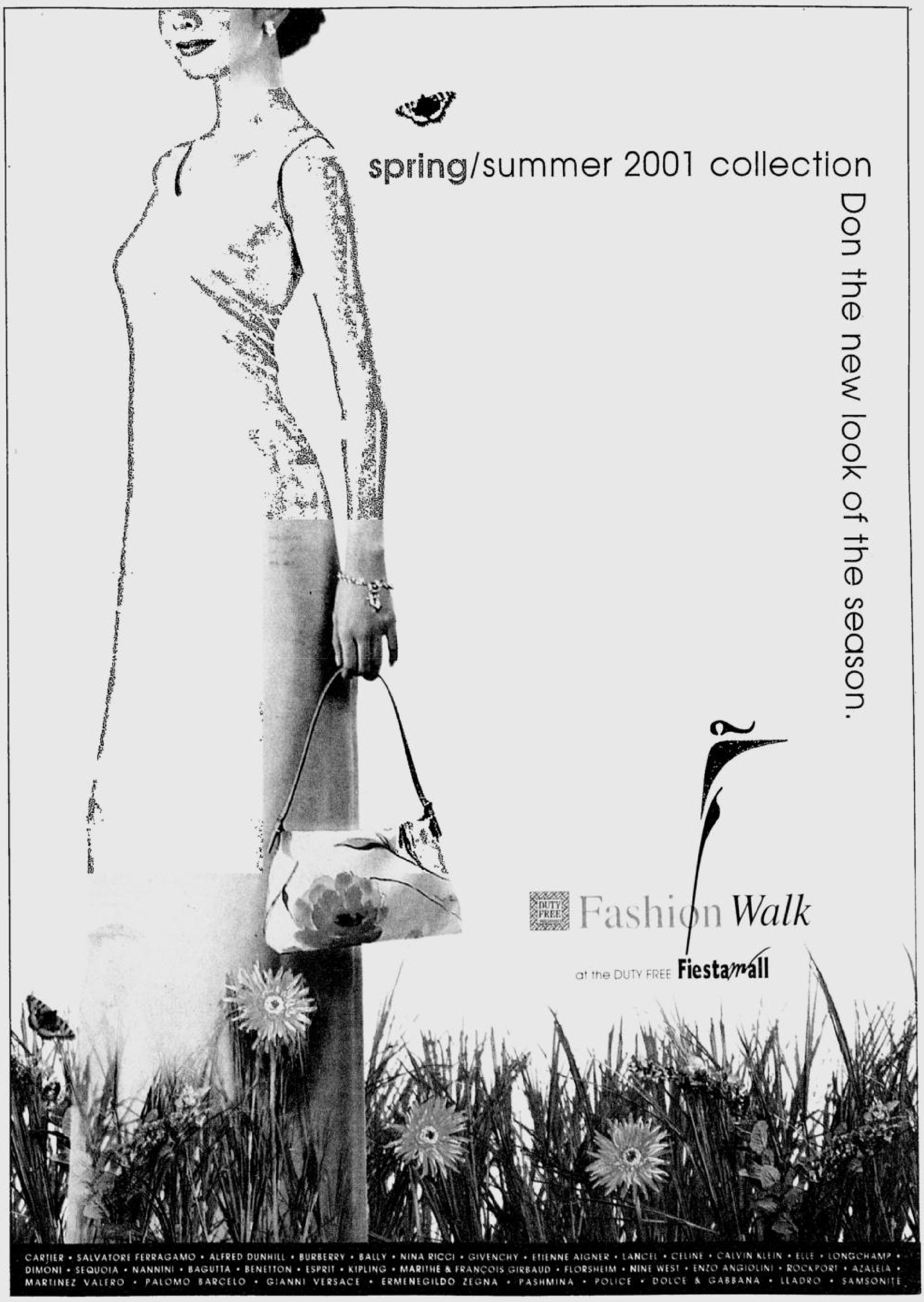
"The first loser is the second placer." He pushes me to strive for perfection and live life without doing the same mistake twice. What makes me a true winner for my father is when I aspire for something high and put my whole self into it.

"Keep yourself busy; the most difficult job in the world is to do nothing." Daddy has enrolled me in music schools and acting workshops and pushed me to train in sports.

"The reason your head is above your heart is because your mind should always rule over all your emotions." My grandmother taught this to Daddy and this is what he constantly reminds us, his three children. It is not feelings alone that make us humans. We are also endowed with the capacity to use reason and make decisions to make things better not for ourselves but for others.

As I venture out into the world, I perceive the world through his eyes. I salute Daddy and the other fathers who have the courage to show reality to their children.

Michelle Pino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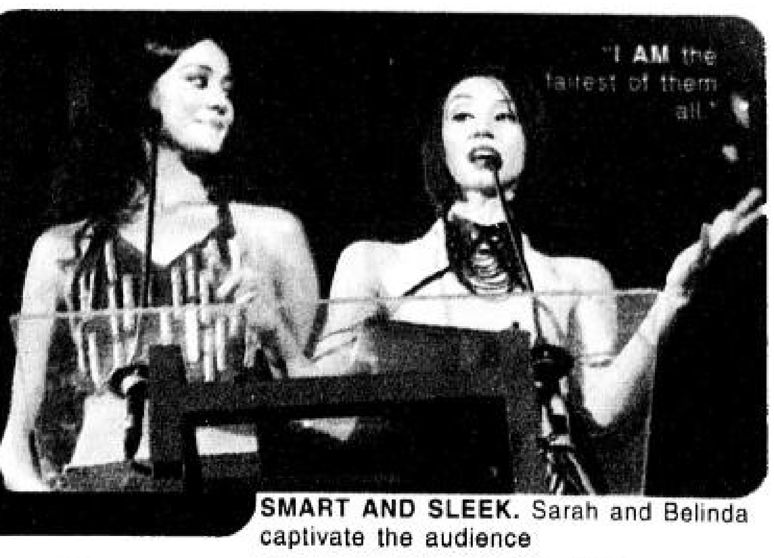
And the winners are . . .

MTV Philippines handed out its awards with a good supply of bands, booze and babes


"I AM the fairest of them all."

SMART AND SLEEK. Sarah and Belinda captivate the audience

By Maui V. Reyes

WHAT happens when you combine some of today's top local artists, a handful of Pinoy music videos and some lucky fans who got to rub elbows with the likes of Parokya ni Edgar? How about the 2001 MTV Philippine Video Music Awards?

Dubbed as "MTV Pilipinas 2001," the event brought together music, fashion and awards as artists graced the stage amid a street-vibe backdrop and MTV VJs in minimal clothing. After Radha belted out the national anthem, the stage came alive with presenters, winners, performers and the occasional Powerdance performance. A medley of all the songs under the Best Song category was staged, giving "Agent Orange" a funky twist that had Slapshock laughing in their seats.

The first band onstage was Battery—nominated for Best Video—who performed their hit single, "Come to Me," right after Kyla bagged the award for Best New Artist with her video, "Hanggang Ngayon."

Jun Lupito and Jett Pangan presented the award for Best Group, which Parokya ni Edgar picked up for "Inuman Na." Freestyle then took the stage, playing two songs, including their "Close Up" jingle (I know, don't look at me).

Probably the biggest surprise that night was the Teeth's performance. Not only was frontman Glenn Jacinto absent, but bassist Doc sported a guitar and took over vocals on "Shooting Star." Parokya ni Edgar's musical moment was also a shocker—not one of the band members attempted to go topless.

THE ALL STAR cast of MTV Pilipinas 2001

Kyla, who won not only Best New Artist but also got the award for Best Video, would be getting some serious plane mileage representing the Philippines in the MTV Video Music Awards South-East Asian category. "I hoped for the best, but I never expected to win, really," she said.

What will she do if she bags her third award against the other Southeast Asian countries and flies to New York? "Shop!" she says, laughing. "I'll go shopping for clothes and shoes. I'm a major shoe shopper!"

Of course, she's also looking forward to seeing the likes of Destiny's Child and… Aretha Franklin! "I love black artists," she revealed. "And I love Aretha. Her voice is incredible."

Another big winner that night was Lyle Sacris, who was given props for Chico Science's "Sink or Swim" under the Best Director category (the college boys of Chico Science all huddled together exclaiming they finally "won something," having lucked out on their Best New Artist nomination), and for Kyla's "Hanggang Ngayon." Best Video. A little shy and reserved, he confessed he was "hoping to win an award. It was voted by the public, which really means a lot to me."

How he came up with the concept of the Kyla vid is pretty interesting. "I get inspired by everyday things.. for the Kyla video, well, there was this refrigerator at this place [where I work]. I just looked at it and thought of the video." Not bad for an MTV award.

If he were free to do a video of any artist.. "Primus," he said, without thinking. "He's my idol. I wouldn't know what it would look like, but I'd direct any video for him!"

Best Group winners Parokya ni Edgar, even at 1 a.m., still had enough energy to play around with their award and make fun of absolutely anything they saw. "We thought Slapshock would win in every category—except Best Female!" said Gabriel.

Since their video for "Inuman Na" bagged them the award, it was no surprise that the reason they showed up was for "the free booze," as Chito joked.

Shooting the video for the song was second nature to them. "You know, it's a Filipino custom to drink a lot," Darius explained (everyone tried to keep their faces straight as he said this). "You know, you drink a lot. Everyone was really nice during the shoot. Except Ms Tapia… she's a snob!"

We learned that Vinci was Kuya Germs' favorite among the six of them, and that they were good friends with Yosi Kadiri and a certain Alien. "Yosi isn't *kadiri*, man, he's cool!" Darius exclaimed. "He's Yosi Cool, not Yosi Kadiri!"

And the alien? "Alien is cool! He has a little bit of an ego problem though, you know, he was in three hit movies," said Chito. "But, okay, can we tell you a secret? They're not real *naman eh*… they're just guys wearing costumes. It's Tado in a costume, *eh*." Um, yeah, we didn't know that.

Gabriel was quick to share what video the band would like to be in. "I want to dance with Lionel Ritchie on a rooftop!"

Grabbing two awards that night for Best Song and Best Male was Ogie Alcasid for his video "Kahit Na." He admitted enjoying award shows that were "contemporary and hip" like MTV. Shooting the video for his song was a cinch—he shot it in Taal, his hometown, where he also tied the knot with his wife, and the shoot took place in a day.

Best New Artist—
Kyla, "Hanggang Ngayon"
Best Group—
Parokya ni Edgar,
"Inuman Na"
Best Male—
Ogie Alcasid, "Kahit Na"
Best Female—
Regine Velasquez,
"Lost Without Your Love"
Best Song—
Ogie Alcasid, "Kahit Na"
Best Director—
Lyle Sacris for Chico
Science's "Sink or Swim"
Best Video—
Kyla, "Hanggang Ngayon"

Maybe Mr. Alcasid doesn't get starstruck that much. After all, he hosts a variety show and pretty much meets everyone. "But I really appreciate the musicality of Slapshock," he admitted. "They just have all this energy, which is really amazing."

The night wrapped up with a surprise performance by different band members who took center stage. Wolf Gemora of Wolfgang, Tirso Ripol of Razorback, Rico Blanco of River Maya, Marc Abaya of Sandwhich, Radha of Kulay and Buddy Zabala of the Eraserheads cut the stage, dishing out a medley of "Rock n' Roll sa Mundo" by Juan Dela Cruz, "Kumusta Mga Kaibigan" by Maria Cafra and "Kahit Anong Mangyari" by JDC.

"I was told about the performance and I just asked who else was playing, and I just agreed," said Rico. "I didn't care about what song we'd be playing… just the company."

MTV VJ Donita Rose later revealed whom she predicted would win, and did. "Kyla's song is very moving and the video is really nice. It doesn't look low-budget, it's not *baduy*," she shared.

The best performance? Since she hadn't seen Battery live and considered Mike Turner a very nice guy, she was happy to have seen them finally play.

And what was with the daring outfit? "Well, you know, I'm not really this daring," she blushed. "It's such a last-minute thing. Sari-Sari made it for me and I just had it fit last night."

People flocked to the after-party at Where Else? right after the show. Being an MTV event, the fun didn't stop there—bands and fans rushed out of the venue for some serious party action, still talking about the big surprises that night.

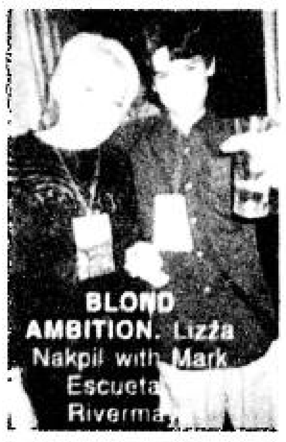
For starters, Slapshock, though nominated for three categories, didn't win even one. Vina Morales sported the same dress VJ Sara Meier wore when she hosted MTV's Fashionista party, and the Powerdance people could have picked a better tune to groove to other than Wolfgang's "Atomica."

And, well, maybe some people didn't exactly enjoy the show ("The show was really boring and that 'Atomica' dance number really sucked big time," said Wolfgang drummer Wolf Gemora). But free booze, music and Donita baring some skin made the show worthwhile.

What's your bet that Kyla is plotting her shopping spree by now?

STUDIO MIX. JM Rodriguez and DJ Mumph

MTV's Charley Bautista and Mojo Jojo



BLOND AMBITION. Lizza Nakpil with Mark Escueta of Rivermaya

FLEX IT. Jeff and Markus ham it up.

MTV ROCKS! Lisa Cunico and Atom Henares

DIRECTOR AND STAR. Mark Reyes and Donita Rose

UPTOWN GIRL. Lana Asanin and Xander Angeles

FIERY ZEBRA. Jamir Garcia of Slapshock and Ronald Pasion of Warp

Fashion and music 'n' sync

Music denizens turn out in styles diverse, outlandish and inimitably theirs during the MTV Pilipinas 2001 awards

Text and photos by Tim Yap

HERE'S the style summary of your standard-issue music artist, ages teeny weeny to twentysomething, on the road to stardom. He or she is very much into comfort—because life isn't about clothes, right? It's about the music, or as a record store puts it, "No music, no life."

Take a peek into their closets—lots of white shirts, old pairs of Levi's, vintage Adidas and Converse soles, some leather, sports shirts and jersey jackets. They don't need to dress up—it's months till the prom.

And then it hits. The MTV Pilipinas Awards 2001 happens—the senior prom awaits. Industry bigwigs abound, music artists, giant corporate sponsors, media hypists and nosy onlookers all gather in one giant venue (the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel) to pay tribute to the year's best in music and video making.

Dress up

Unless you're Parokya ni Edgar, Wolfgang, True Faith or some other rock or alternative group known for "down home" understated style, then you have to at least dress up. The awards season is a time to be seen—and indeed, at least for this award-giving body, the world (however big or small the industry) is watching.

The amazing thing is, and I've noticed this as well last year, the difference between movie awards and music awards is that chemistry between wearer and "wearee."

PINS AND NEEDLES. Vina Morales in "safety-pin" couture gown by Avel Bacudio

Whereas most show-biz awards ceremonies have stars and nonstars overly made up and styled (by some neighborhood modista and parlorista combo), music awards seem to have the artist's personal style stamped on it. With the exception of Ogie Alcasid (who carried his tanned nautical look very well, I must say), nobody looked like the product of a trained stylist's eye—which is good. Rawness can be translated into style that spells F-R-E-S-H, nothing contrived here.

Spicy standouts

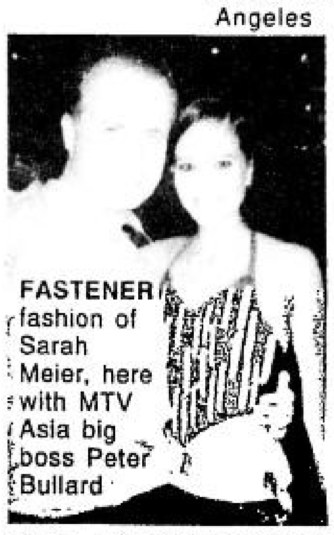
Kibitzers loved Angel Aquino's look, had mixed reactions on Vina Morales. "She looks like Beyonce (of Destiny's Child) Morales in her new do' and silver gown," opined an onlooker. Boy Abunda had feathers in one arm, MTV First Lady Mary Ann Lumen sported denim, Kuh Ledesma chose ethnic chic.

Spicy standout was Fashionista VJ Sarah Meier—with big, big hair and "oily tanned" makeup, she wore a funky paper top with plastic fasteners all over! Only a girl with spunk like Sarah can get away with that number. You go, girl.

Equally astounding was Epy Quizon's hippie hopping. He wore an Indian shirt with cut-glass mirrors from Rajasthan which he bought at a flea market for under P100! Top that with his natural Afro and rubber *tsinelas* and you have a winning style combination. Plus points for chutzpah.

The real point system in the "who wore what" of awards seasons is not the brand or designer behind an artist's style, nor the attention that one gets, but that certain irony. That unlike the rest of them, the wearer looks like he or she is having a great time, no matter how simple, stylish or outlandish it is that he or she is wearing.

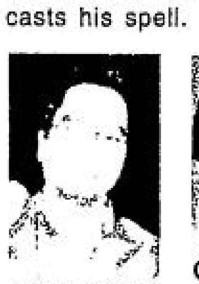
So, the music artist is right after all, it is all about comfort—crazy comfort.



FASTENER fashion of Sarah Meier, here with MTV Asia big boss Peter Bullard

MAGIC TO DO. Epy Quizon casts his spell.

HOME BOYS. Sonny of Chico Science and Chi of Slapshock



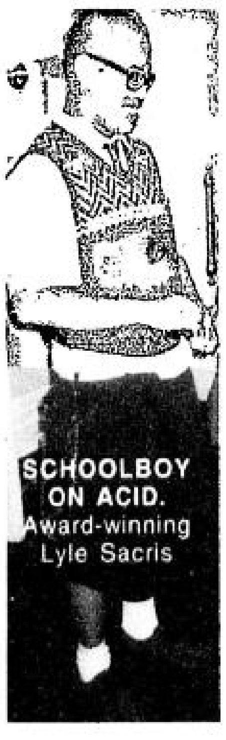
FRANCIS Lumen, I like

GIRLS ON TOP. Kara Tolentino and Tina Tinio

URBAN jungle sensation, "IT" girl Belinda Panelo

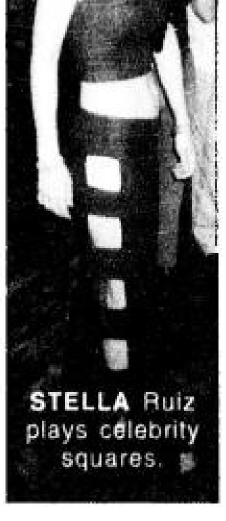
"ANG iyong mga mata, sing ningning ng bituin..."

VINTAGE FINDS. Asela and Darius of Parokya ni Edgar

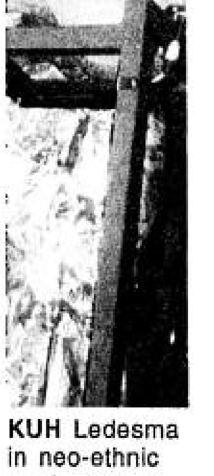


SCHOOLBOY ON ACID. Award-winning Lyle Sacris

DENIM SVELTE. Mary Ann Lumen shines.



STELLA Ruiz plays celebrity squares.



KUH Ledesma in neo-ethnic couture

Filming the man of the house

By Ronald Lester Leyva
2bU! Correspondent
DLSU-Dasmariñas

FATHERS and fatherhood make for good movies. The following movies should show that the man of the house is also the hero of cinema. Rent some (or all) of these fatherly movies.

'Big Daddy'

Sonny Koufax becomes an instant father to Julian, the kid of his roommate, who's out of town. At first, Sonny keeps Julian at a distance. But his own paternal feelings for the kid get the better of him so that in the end, the two become bosom buddies of sorts.

'In the Name of the Father'

Young Gerry Conlon is wrongly accused of bombing a pub at the height of the IRA bombings of England. The authorities and the media play him up as part of the Guilford Four (Conlon and his friends) and throw him to the stockade together with his father, wrongfully tagged as mastermind. Father and son battle the system for nearly two decades, expose the officials' incompetence and machination that led to the trumped-up charges and their false conviction, and finally win freedom through a dramatic high court ruling. By then, Conlon's father has already died. A true story directed by Irish director Jim Sheridan and starring Daniel Day Lewis.

"BIG Daddy"

The father figure keeps the movie box office ringing

'Jack Frost'

Jack Frost gets killed in an accident and returns to fulfill his fatherly obligations to a precocious kid in the form of a snowman come to life. It's an absurd movie, though touching in some parts.

'Father of the Bride'

Comedy superstar Steve Martin is George Banks, a most nervous "Father of the Bride." With his attachment to his only daughter, he could hardly accept that her baby is now a lady. The pompous wedding preparations and the painful parting would make fathers love their daughters more.

"THIS is My Father"

"FATHER of the Bride"

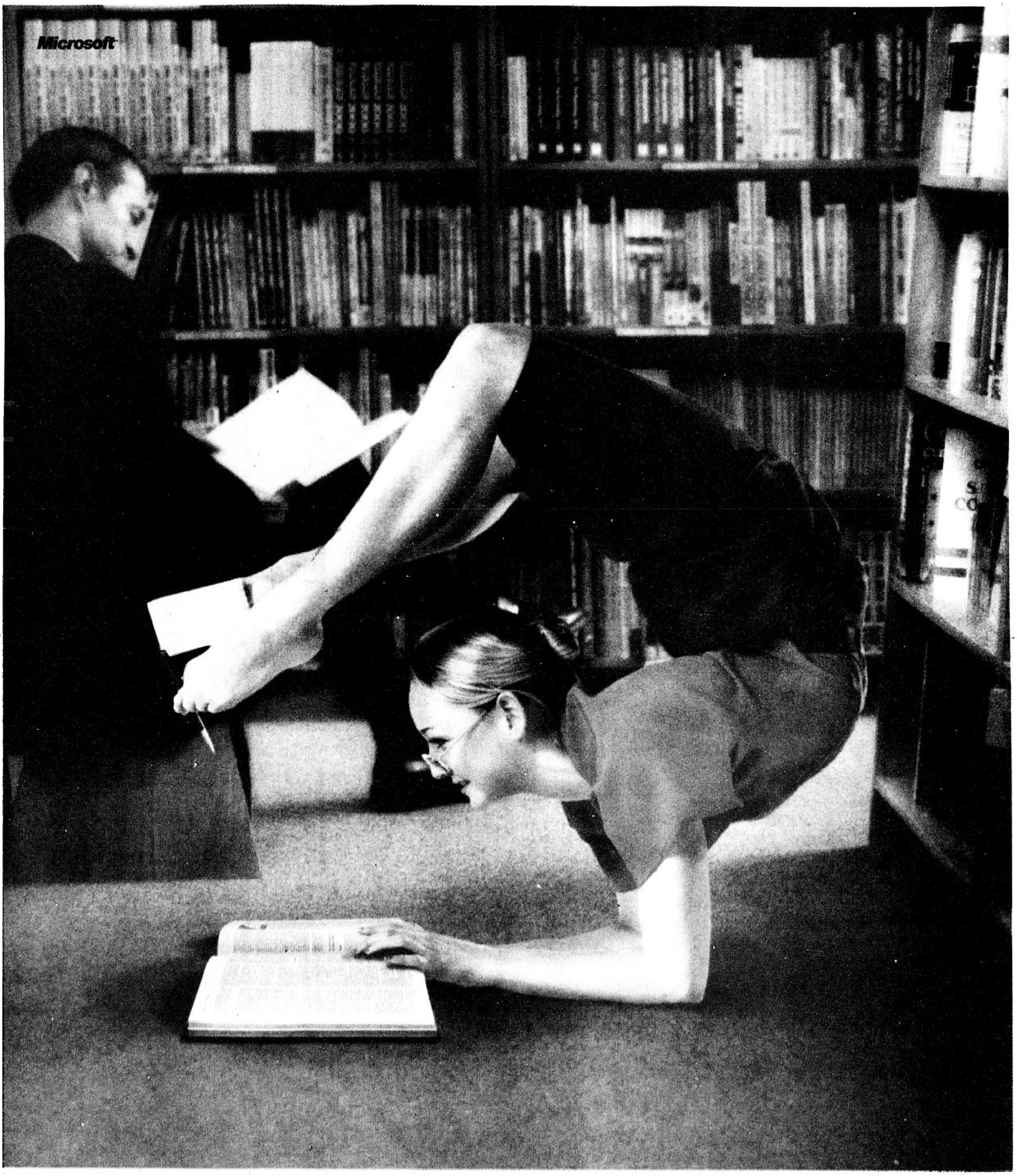
'This is My Father'

Irish-American Kieran Johnson has a bag of problems that makes him quit teaching in Chicago. He has a mother paralyzed by a stroke. His divorced sister and her troublesome adolescent son depend on him. He goes back to Ireland in search of his roots and father. He finds romance instead.

'Getting Even with Dad'

Long-haired Macaulay Culkin is the smart son against Ted Danson's bumbling fugitive dad. Hungry for attention, Culkin gets hold of his dad's loot and blackmails him into spending time with him. It's the ultimate kid revenge movie.

With reports from Anne Luisa Villarico



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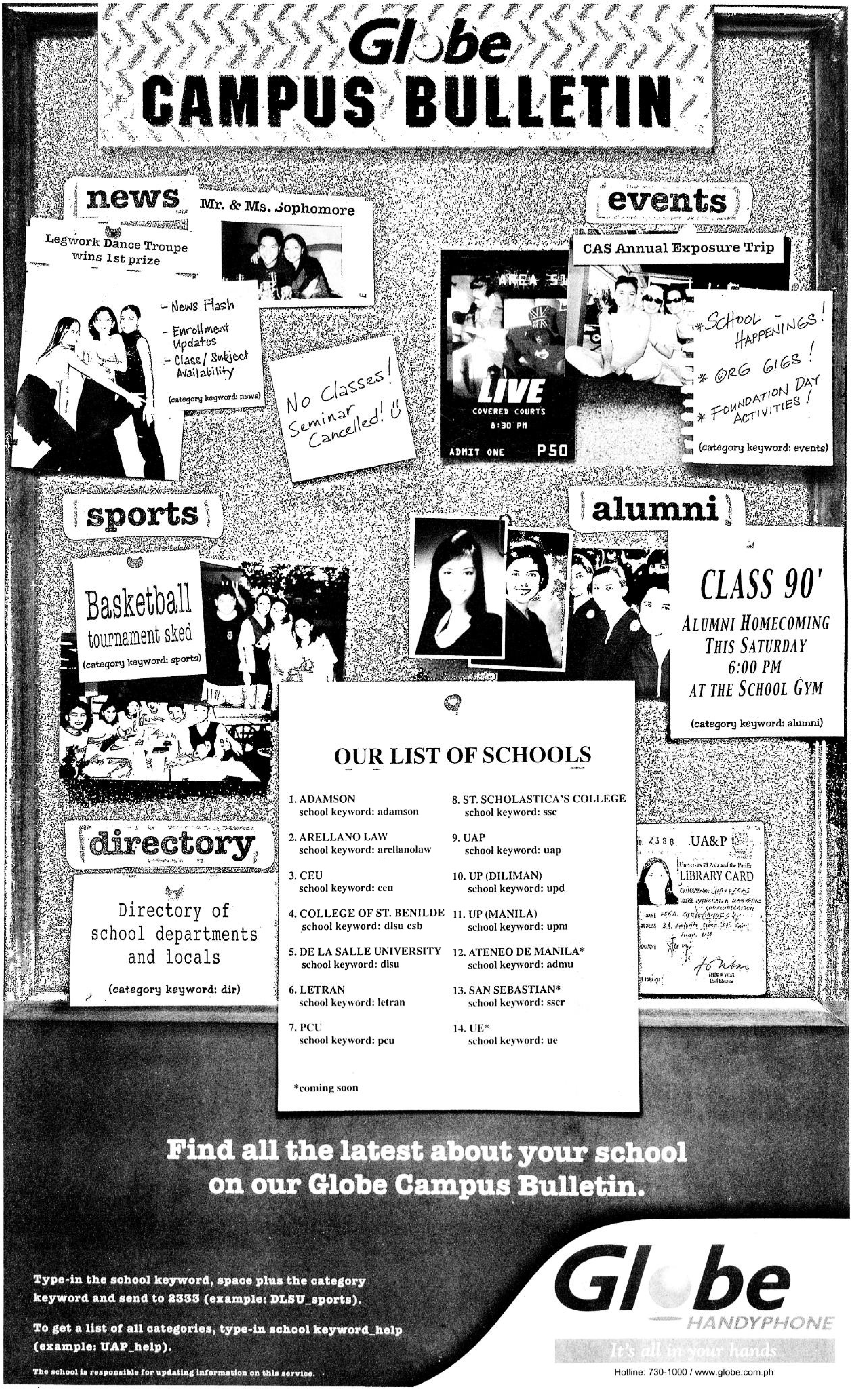

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Mikko and Miggy

Real-life papas

BY CELESTE GOMEZ
AND MARILESS V. VILLAMAR

MOST guys shun the idea of being a father at an early age because it means missing out on the various opportunities life has to offer to bachelors. We can't really blame them, but the girls cannot be expected to carry the responsibility for a family alone, can they? Thankfully, there are guys who willingly take on the challenge and end up liking what they've become—good fathers.

Journey to maturity

Peace of mind. For Michael Patrick L. Banzon, 22, this is one of the blessings from his decision to have an early start in family life. During the years he was a bachelor, he had endless needs and wants, but after his marriage to Emily Grace Villarin in 1999 and the birth of their son Miguel Enrico months later, he claims he has found happiness and peace.

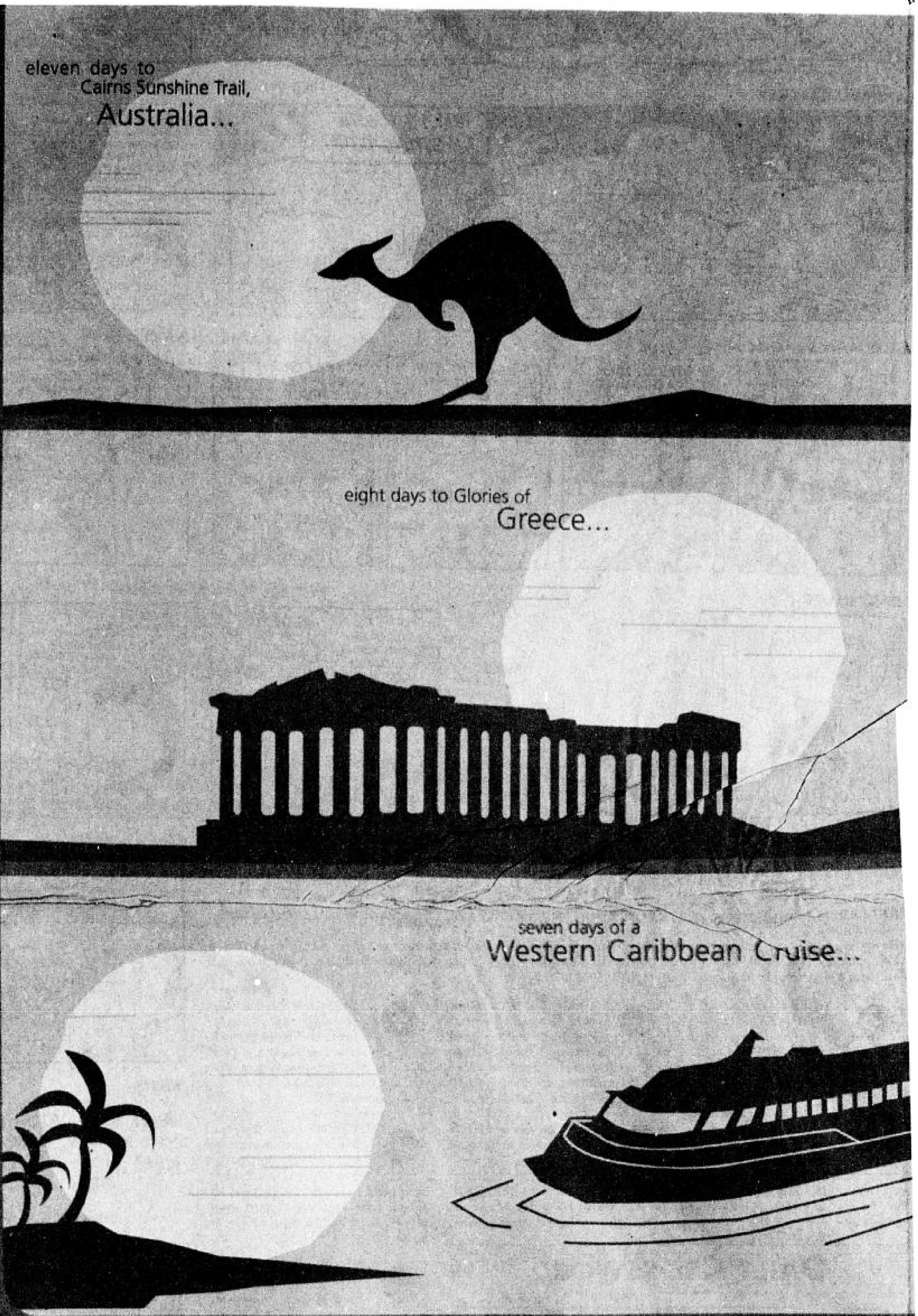
Mikko's transformation from a carefree bachelor to a responsible father opened him to the realities of life. It's no joke for this hotel and restaurant management major at De La Salle University-College of St. Benilde to travel every weekend for three hours from Manila to Cabanatuan, where Emy lives with her family, just to be with Miggy.

Sometimes, he misses his little boy so much that he brings Miggy with him to Manila two weeks in a month. Back in high school, when he would always hang cut at popular discos like Faces and Euphoria, he had all the time to drink and party with his friends. Now, his gimmicks have been trimmed down to movie marathons with Emy and playing billiards with his friends.

Proudly, he says that he has no regrets about being a teenage father. "When you choose to do something, you should know the consequences and accept them." When asked for one important lesson that he wouldn't forget to teach his son, he immediately says, "In any situation that he gets himself into, he should always be strong enough to accept and handle it. For example, in being a teenage father, when you fall in love you should know the consequences and shouldn't be afraid and run away from it."

Right now, Mikko doesn't feel like a "real" father yet, being preoccupied with his studies

REAL/ p.D3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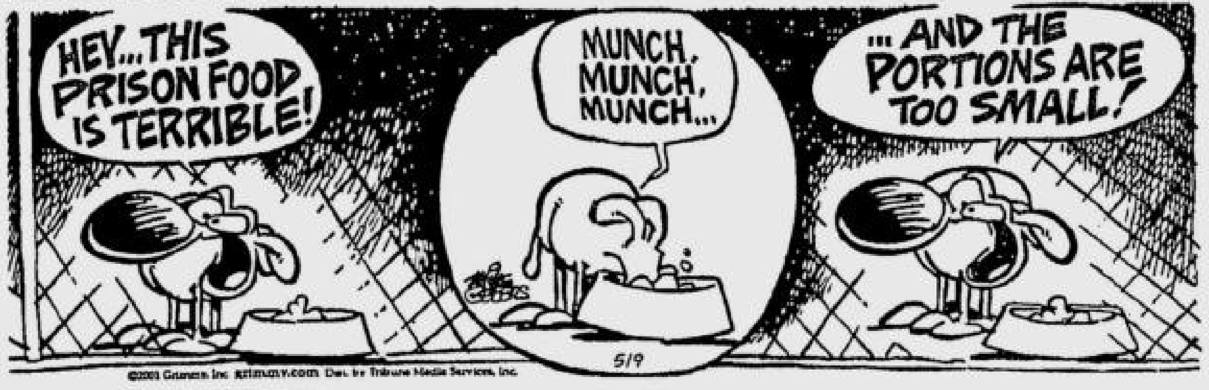
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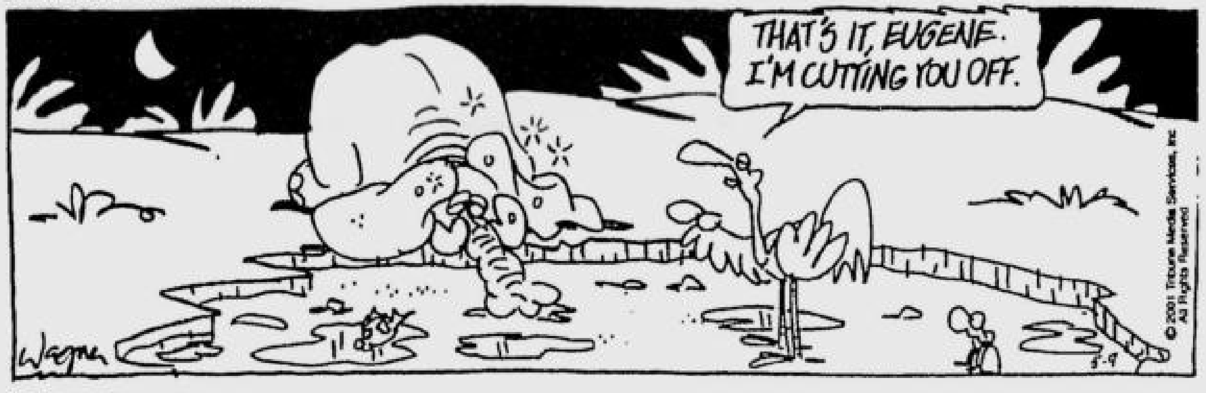
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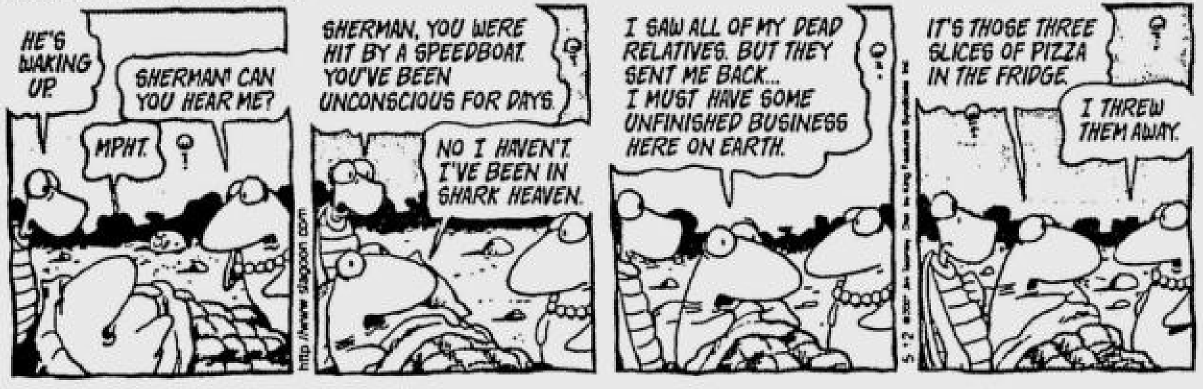
BY JIM TOOMEY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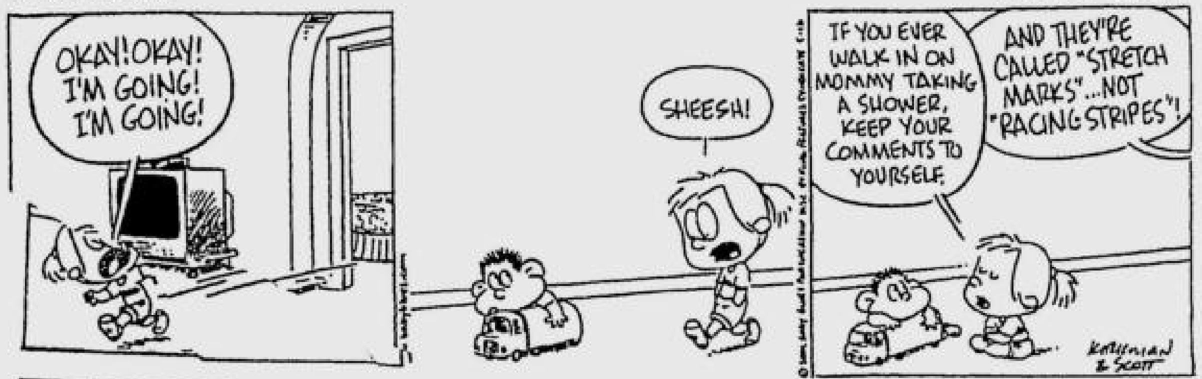
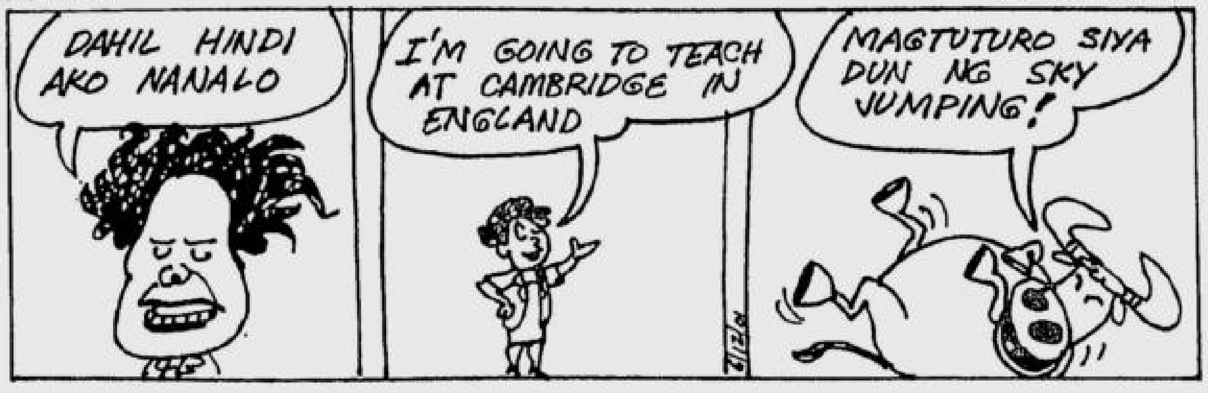
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


OKAY! OKAY! I'M GOING! I'M GOING!
SHEESH!
IF YOU EVER WALK IN ON MOMMY TAKING A SHOWER, KEEP YOUR COMMENTS TO YOURSELF.
AND THEY'RE CALLED "STRETCH MARKS"...NOT "RACING STRIPES"!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

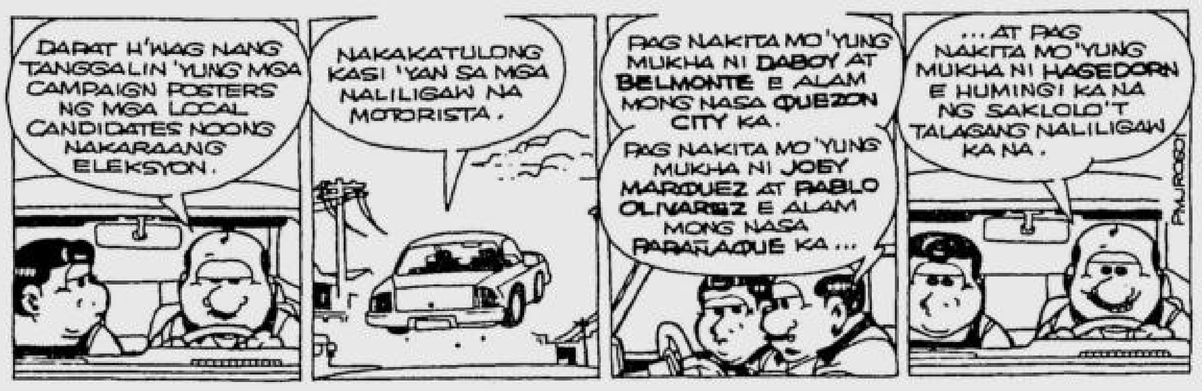
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DAHIL HINDI AKO NANALO
I'M GOING TO TEACH AT CAMBRIDGE IN ENGLAND
MAGTUTURO SIYA DUN NG SKY JUMPING!
6/12/01

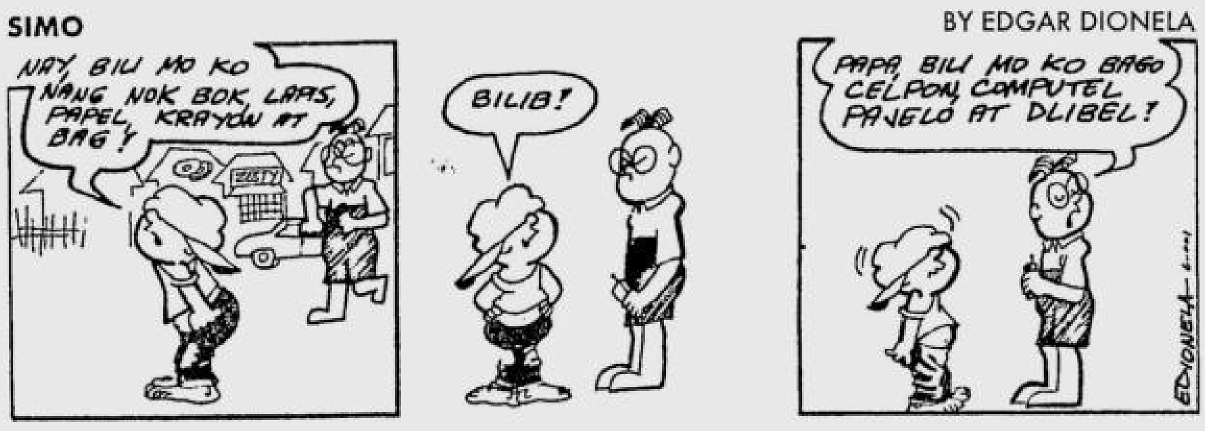
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


DAPAT H'WAG NANG TANGGALIN 'YUNG MGA CAMPAIGN POSTERS NG MGA LOCAL CANDIDATES NOONG NAKARAANG ELEKSYON.
NAKAKATULONG KASI 'YAN SA MGA NALILIGAW NA MOTORISTA.
PAG NAKITA MO 'YUNG MUKHA NI DABOY AT BELMONTE E ALAM MONG NASA QUEZON CITY KA.
PAG NAKITA MO 'YUNG MUKHA NI JOEY MARQUEZ AT PABLO OLIVAREZ E ALAM MONG NASA PARAÑAQUE KA...
...AT PAG NAKITA MO 'YUNG MUKHA NI HAGEDORN E HUMINGI KA NA NG SAKLOLO'T TALAGANG NALILIGAW KA NA.
PMJR2001

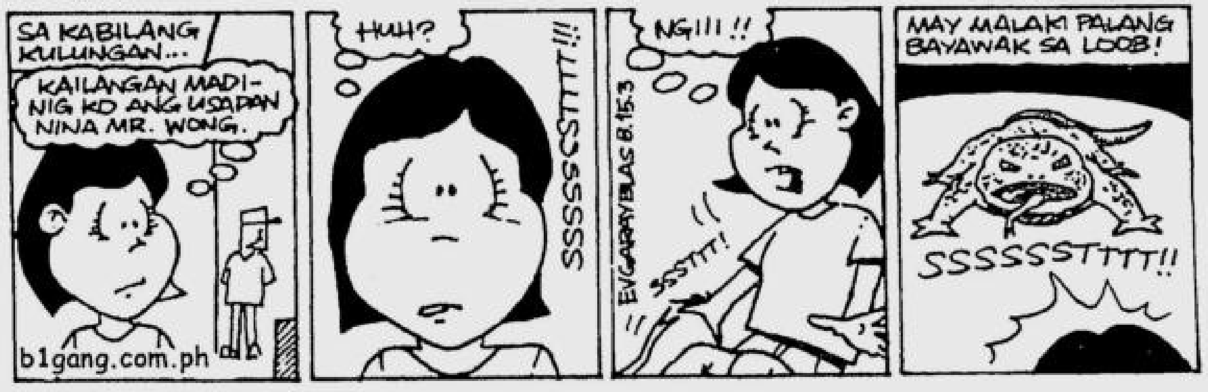
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NAY, BILI MO KO NANG NOK BOK, LAPIS, PAPEL, KRAYON AT BAG!
BILIB!
PAPA, BILI MO KO BAGO CELPON, COMPUTEL PAJELO AT DLIBEL!
EDIONELA

B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


SA KABILANG KULUNGAN...
KAILANGAN MADINIG KO ANG USAPAN NINA MR. WONG.
b1gang.com.ph
HUH?
SSSSSSSTTTT!!!
NGIII!!
SSSTTT!
MAY MALAKI PALANG BAYAWAK SA LOOB!
SSSSSSTTTT!!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Paul Lynde, Malcolm McDowell, Christo, Ashley and Mary Kate Olsen, Ethan Embry

Happy Birthday: You move powerfully and swiftly to acquire the position that beckons. High energy coupled with intellectual knowledge will lead to success. Don't let up now when you are just about to make it to the top. It will be out with the old and in with the new this year. Your numbers: 19, 22, 28, 34, 45, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You get bored quickly if you don't have enough to do and will need a challenge. Plan your day, making sure not to leave too much free time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Red tape and problems with permits or licenses will prevail if you haven't gone through the proper channels. Ask those you trust for advice. Investments can be lucrative if you're conservative.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Although problems with peers will be upsetting, don't back them into a corner. It's wise to observe what they do. They will find it difficult to treat you badly if you are nice to them.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You need to be in the center of things. The attention makes you feel good about yourself. Your ideas will be readily accepted, and you will receive the support you need to get things moving.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will be extremely active in intellectual pursuits. You can acquire a great deal of knowledge by listening or reading, and travel will enhance your cultural appreciation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Personal investments will pay off. Your health may suffer if you haven't been getting enough rest. Be wary of friends who want you to lend them money. There will be more activity at home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Self-deception will lead to disappointment. Travel or educational pursuits will help take your mind off your troubles. Be diplomatic when talking to those who can affect your position.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Career opportunities will surface if you are willing to put yourself on the line. Talk to those in high positions about your ideas and vision. Your dedication will help close the deal.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It's time to stop putting on the pounds and get your life back in order. Shoot for a new routine, a new look and new friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your erratic behavior will result in discord. Don't think that you're the only one suffering. Your mate is probably wondering what you'll do next. Make an effort to clarify your actions.

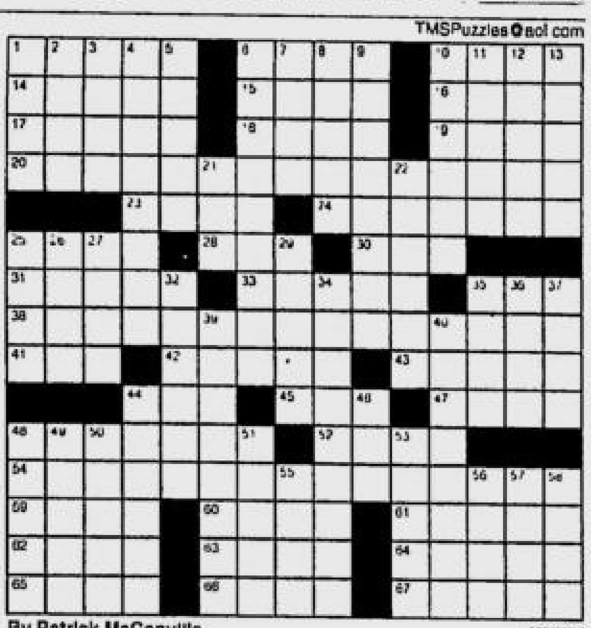
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Problems with friends and relatives will surface if you keep changing your mind. If you're unsure, then don't say anything at all. Do plenty of research first.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Career changes will be in your best interests. Don't hesitate to form partnerships that could lead to financial opportunities. Your own business will be successful if you don't expand too quickly.

Birthday Baby: You're caring, warm and emotional, with a heart of gold. You always try hard to please everyone around you.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Patrick McConville
Manassas Park, VA

4/27/01

ACROSS
1 Bearlike mammal
6 Colorful marine fish
10 Hindu deity
14 Prost or Delon
15 River to the Ubangi
16 City near Provo
17 Bump the bet
18 1982 Disney flick
19 Gaucho's device
20 One's cronies
23 Table extension
24 Keyboard workers
25 Spanish home
28 Ind. TV network
30 Doggie doc
31 Meat jelly
33 Reasoning
35 Make a choice
38 Atlantic vanishing point?
41 For example
42 Jonathan of "Brazil"
43 Doctor, at times
44 Feathery scarf
45 Uris novel, with "The"
47 Twenty quires
48 Mogadishu's nation
52 Be __ as it may...
54 Area by the Forbidden City
59 Thomas __ Edison
60 Competent
61 Puccini pieces
62 Sharp as a tack
63 Solidifies
64 Darken
65 Writer Buchanan
66 Time frames
67 Fred's dancing sister

DOWN
1 French picnic locale
2 Jai follower
3 Neat rival
4 Renounce
5 Anoint, old-style
6 Foul
7 Bdwy. showing
8 Higher up
9 First Tudor king
10 Amen!
11 Jeremy of "Brideshead Revisited"
12 South African grassland
13 Collect
21 Agua, to Fifi
22 Medicine that induces vomiting
25 Hacks
26 Out of port, but not wine
27 Light on one's feet
29 V-shaped cut
32 Dome
34 Grandeur
35 Beastly character
36 Petition
37 Set duration
39 Irrigation concern
40 Cultivated
44 Split fruit
46 Intermediate learning inst.
48 Gambler's bet
49 Lubricated
50 Expert
51 Brownish-yellow
53 Middle East gulf
55 Ms. Fitzgerald
56 Assistant
57 Banister
58 Salinger heroine

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

B	E	A	R	■	A	L	I	A	S	■	R	A	I	N
A	X	L	E	■	N	U	D	G	E	■	O	T	T	O
S	T	O	O	D	O	N	O	N	E	S	T	O	E	S
E	O	N	■	A	N	G	L	E	■	M	U	M	M	Y
S	L	E	A	Z	Y	■	S	W	O	O	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	M	E	M	O	■	■	T	O	D	A	T	E
A	L	S	O	■	■	D	A	V	I	T	■	G	E	L
K	I	C	K	E	D	O	N	E	S	H	E	E	L	S
I	R	A	■	Y	A	R	D	S	■	■	I	D	L	E
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D	R	A	G	G	E	D	O	N	E	S	F	E	E	T
A	N	T	E	■	T	E	N	O	R	■	U	R	G	E
M	O	S	T	■	C	R	O	S	S	■	R	Y	E	S

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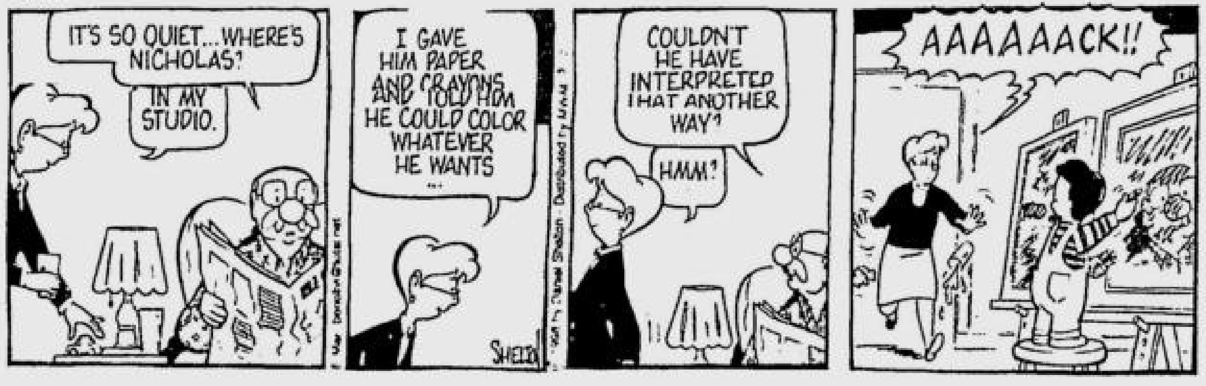
4/27/01

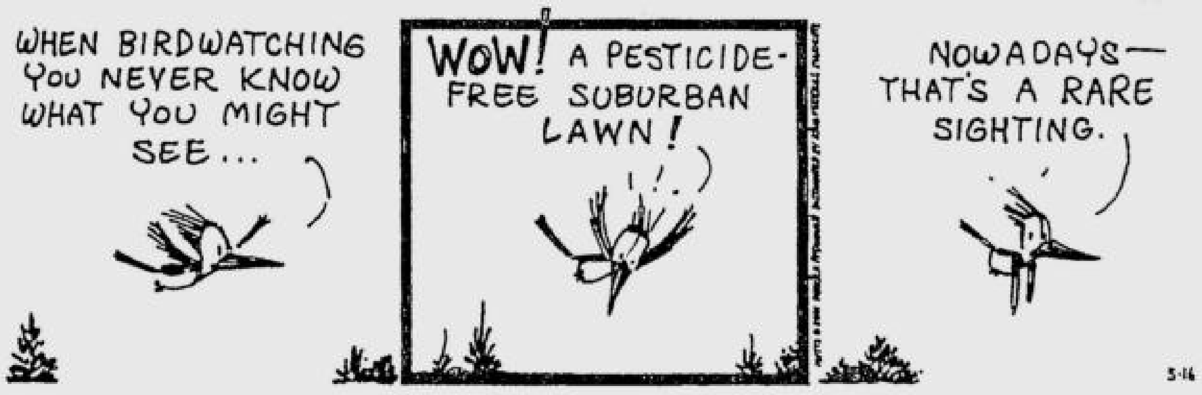
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


IT'S SO QUIET...WHERE'S NICHOLAS?
IN MY STUDIO.
I GAVE HIM PAPER AND CRAYONS AND TOLD HIM HE COULD COLOR WHATEVER HE WANTS...
COULDN'T HE HAVE INTERPRETED THAT ANOTHER WAY?
HMM?
AAAAAACK!!
SHELTON

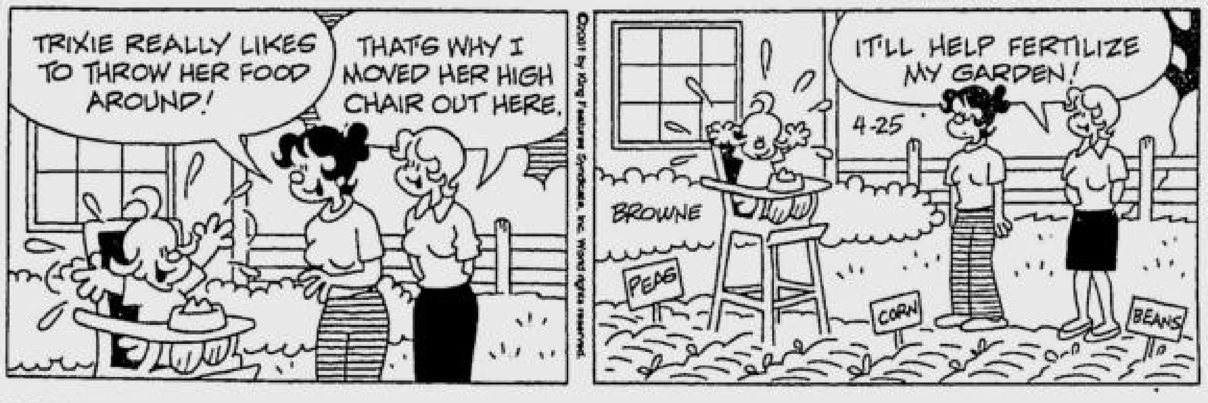
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHEN BIRDWATCHING YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU MIGHT SEE...
WOW! A PESTICIDE-FREE SUBURBAN LAWN!
NOWADAYS— THAT'S A RARE SIGHTING.
5-16

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


TRIXIE REALLY LIKES TO THROW HER FOOD AROUND!
THAT'S WHY I MOVED HER HIGH CHAIR OUT HERE.
IT'LL HELP FERTILIZE MY GARDEN!
4-25
BROWNE
PEAS
CORN
BEANS
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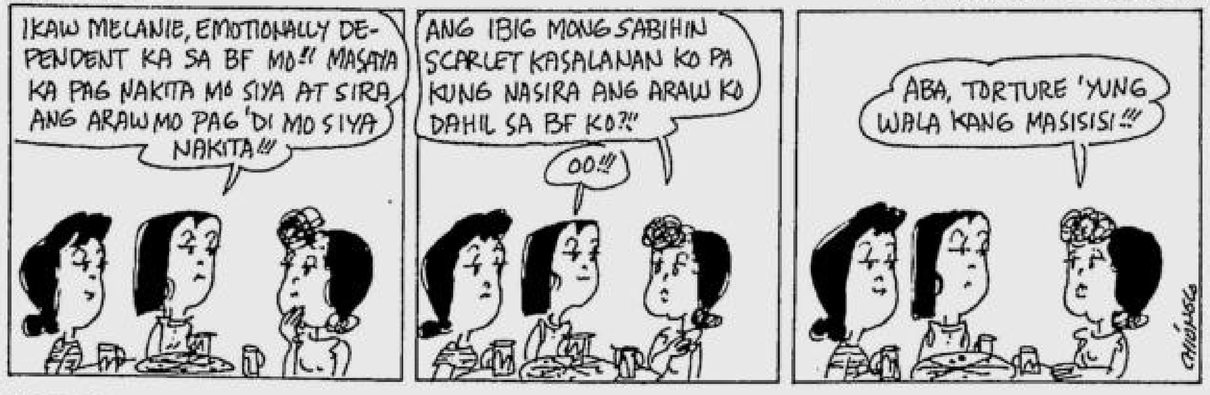
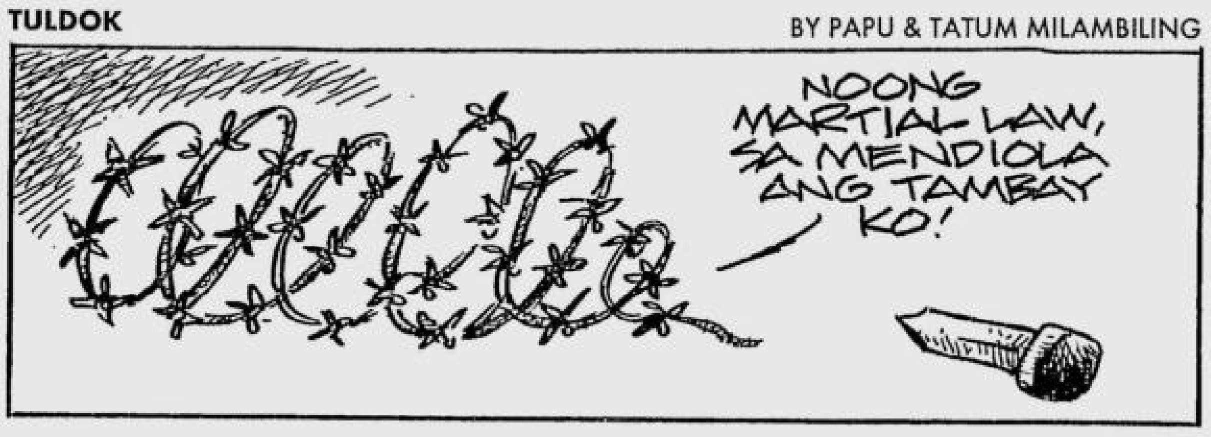
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


IKAW MELANIE, EMOTIONALLY DEPENDENT KA SA BF MO!! MASAYA KA PAG NAKITA MO SIYA AT SIRA ANG ARAW MO PAG 'DI MO SIYA NAKITA!!!
ANG IBIG MONG SABIHIN SCARLET KASALANAN KO PA KUNG NASIRA ANG ARAW KO DAHIL SA BF KO?!
OO!!
ABA, TORTURE 'YUNG WALA KANG MASISISI!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


NOONG MARTIAL LAW, SA MENDIOLA ANG TAMBAY KO!

Real-life papas

(From page D1)

and still dependent on his parents. But five years from now, he sees himself and his family living independently in their own home in Manila or in Cabanatuan and running a small restaurant.

Making choices

Marlon may look like an ordinary college student but, as they say, looks can be deceiving. Marlon is 23 years old; he's been married for a little more than a year and has a 1½-year-old daughter and a 5-month-old son. You would think that the duties of fatherhood would weighed down on a young man like him and make him a more serious person. While fatherhood has indeed changed him, he has not lost his sense of humor and easy-going ways. He is thankful that his parents are helping him and his wife out; they would probably be eating off a bag or a can if it weren't for them.

Prior to becoming a father, Marlon liked to go out almost every night and cut class to spend time at the billiards hall near his school. He went steady with his present wife for about three years before she got pregnant. Unfortunately for his wife, her family could not support her in her decision to have a family with Marlon. They could not provide for her financially.

Marlon and his wife are quick to admit that the pregnancy was not planned though they already had plans to get married. Although things happened sooner than expected, they are happy and committed to their decision to build a family.

In order to earn extra bucks, Marlon is involved in the real-estate business; he works for commission and has so far been very lucky. He was able to buy a car with his earnings; he admits that he's never worked this hard in his life. Although his lifestyle has changed considerably, he says, "I'm lucky that my wife understands that I'm still young and there will be times I'll want to hang out with my friends or play billiards, that's also the way I am with her."

He says that no one has to remind him about his responsibilities as a father because he knows them well. His own father has been a good example and he intends to make him proud. His friends also give him the space he needs; they don't bug him all the time to go out with them and they realize that life is different for him now.

Marlon dotes on his children, whom he calls his "angels." When he is at home, there is no need for the *yaya* to look after the kids because he spends every minute with them. If they need to be fed or changed, he volunteers to do the job. "Having children is never a mistake, they are gifts from God" is his answer to those who ask if he regrets his early fatherhood. His graduation as well as his wife's have been delayed considerably due to the coming of the children, but they both vow to finish their studies and work on giving their children the best that life can offer.

Fatherly advice

There are a lot of young men out there who are going through the same experience as Mikko and Marlon. When asked for advice to other young dads, Mikko says, "Be very supportive and responsible to your family. *Iba na 'yung takbo ng buhay mo.* Remember that you're not a bachelor anymore and your family is your first priority. You shouldn't forget to take care of your kid and spend more time with your family."

Marlon gives a similar advice, "I hope that they can be man enough to face up to the responsibility. It won't be easy but then life is not easy. Love your children and never let them feel they are unwanted."

Marlon and Mikko are lucky that their parents are supportive and have allowed both to fulfill their duties as fathers. Not many are as lucky as they are. There are situations wherein families disown their children due to early and unwanted pregnancies. Life will not completely be easy for young dads, their children will grow up and bills will have to be paid, and each day will become a renewed challenge. But who ever said that life is easy? What is important is that young father will be able to provide the most basic and most significant of needs—the pure and unconditional love of a father for his children.

> There are young men out there who have changed their carefree ways and now change diapers

Contra Father's Day

By Anna Aguilar

"DAD," printed simply on a Hallmark card. "Dad," stamped on small cuts of candied sugar laid out on a tray in a favorite bakery; the cuts are alongside larger cuts resembling a King of Hearts playing card, except these characters had gelled hair and blue neckties. "Dad"? Oh.

Preparations for Father's Day are still in its early stages, but the countdown to the celebration is definitely on. As the world awaits the day when fathers are showered with gifts, cards and other tokens of appreciation, I silently count the days till everyone I know will be too busy with their dads to do anything else, and I, along with others who have dead, missing, or no fathers at all, will again be under the "Awww. . . too bad" category.

Bitter

I, for one, fail to see the point. Mother's Day, I understand. Your mother is the woman who had carried you in her and *as* her for nine months, went through hard labor to get you out into the world, and has been taking unconditional care of you ever since. Celebrating her is the least we can do. Teacher's Day, I even appreciate. Teachers are the men and women who put up with our frivolities as students; their patience is worth praising. But an entire day for fathers?

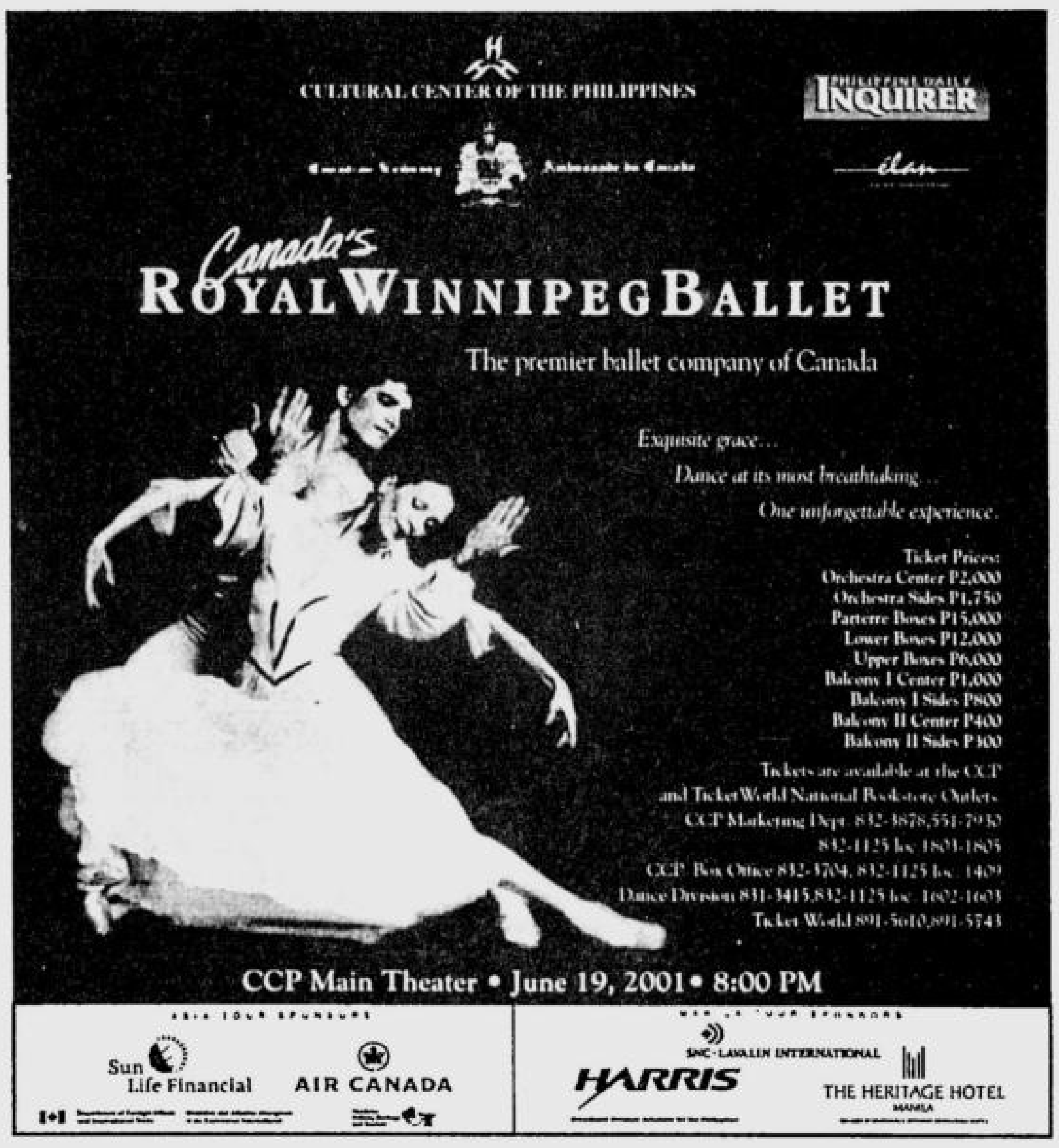
Perhaps I'm just bitter. Perhaps I will gain a nasty notoriety as I seemingly condemn the celebration of Father's Day, while my friends and all those around me attempt to convince me—but in vain—of my greater loss if I didn't have a father around. Let's be fair: some of my friends have had better experiences with their fathers, and maybe I get a little jealous once in a while. I mean, who wouldn't want someone there to look over you extra, right? Who wouldn't want the permission of two parents instead of one? Who wouldn't want someone she could introduce to her friends as "my dad," right?

Father-centered movies have, to me, always depicted a dysfunctional father-figure attempting to win over his wife-child team under the most far-fetched, comic, unrealistic circumstances possible. True, they usually have a happily-ever-after photo-finish, but how likely are those situations? It is ironic that as I sit here and write this piece, "Mama" by Boyz II Men play over the airwaves. Come to think of it, are there any songs addressed to fathers? Like "Daddy" or "Papa"? Funny

Character-builder

I've spent most, if not all, of my vital growing up years with my mom and with not many more, and there is nothing I am willing to trade for that, not even a package-deal life, father included. I grew up understanding that the essence and importance of a father is not in creating me as an organism, but in forming me as a person, a human being, and based on that definition, I guess I've been deprived that share of character-builders. But I am not complaining. My mom and those who sincerely love me and have been with me through my greater dilemmas in life have done more than I could have asked. I am whole, a little rough at the edges, but still complete. I understand not many will understand my position, and frankly, I don't want, much less expect, anyone's sympathy.

But the fact remains that Father's Day is still an event. It is the day when those around me celebrate their fathers, as I stay home and, well, have nothing to celebrate! I get asked all the time if I ever miss not having a dad around; well, I answer that you can't really miss what you never really had. It is the day when balloons and cards and banners with "Dad" on them scatter all over, and people crowd the Men's section in department stores in search for the perfect Father's Day gift. As for me, I will shop elsewhere.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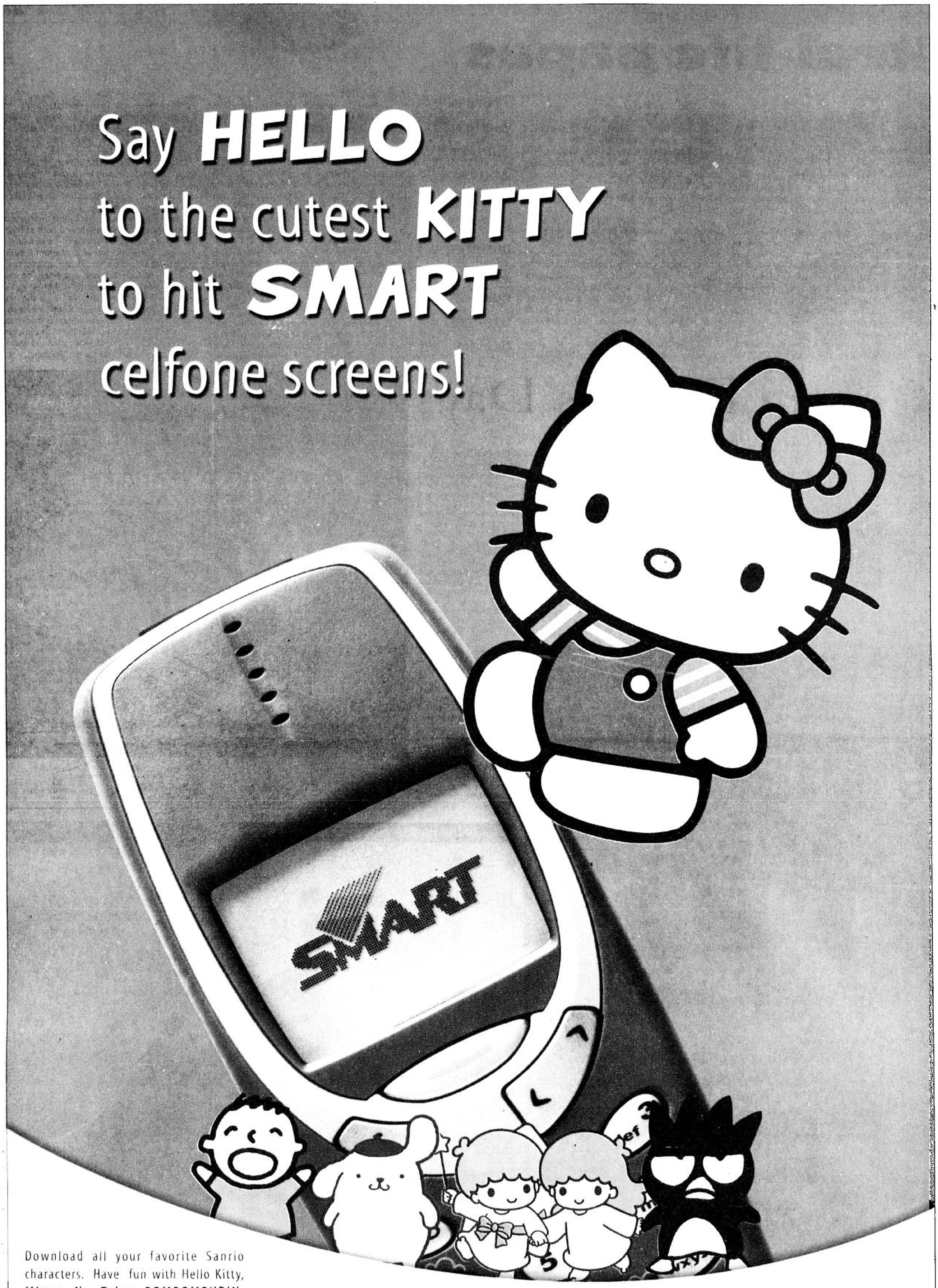

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Happiness is not having him around on Father's Day

For this young woman, there's more reason to celebrate Independence Day

Story on page E3

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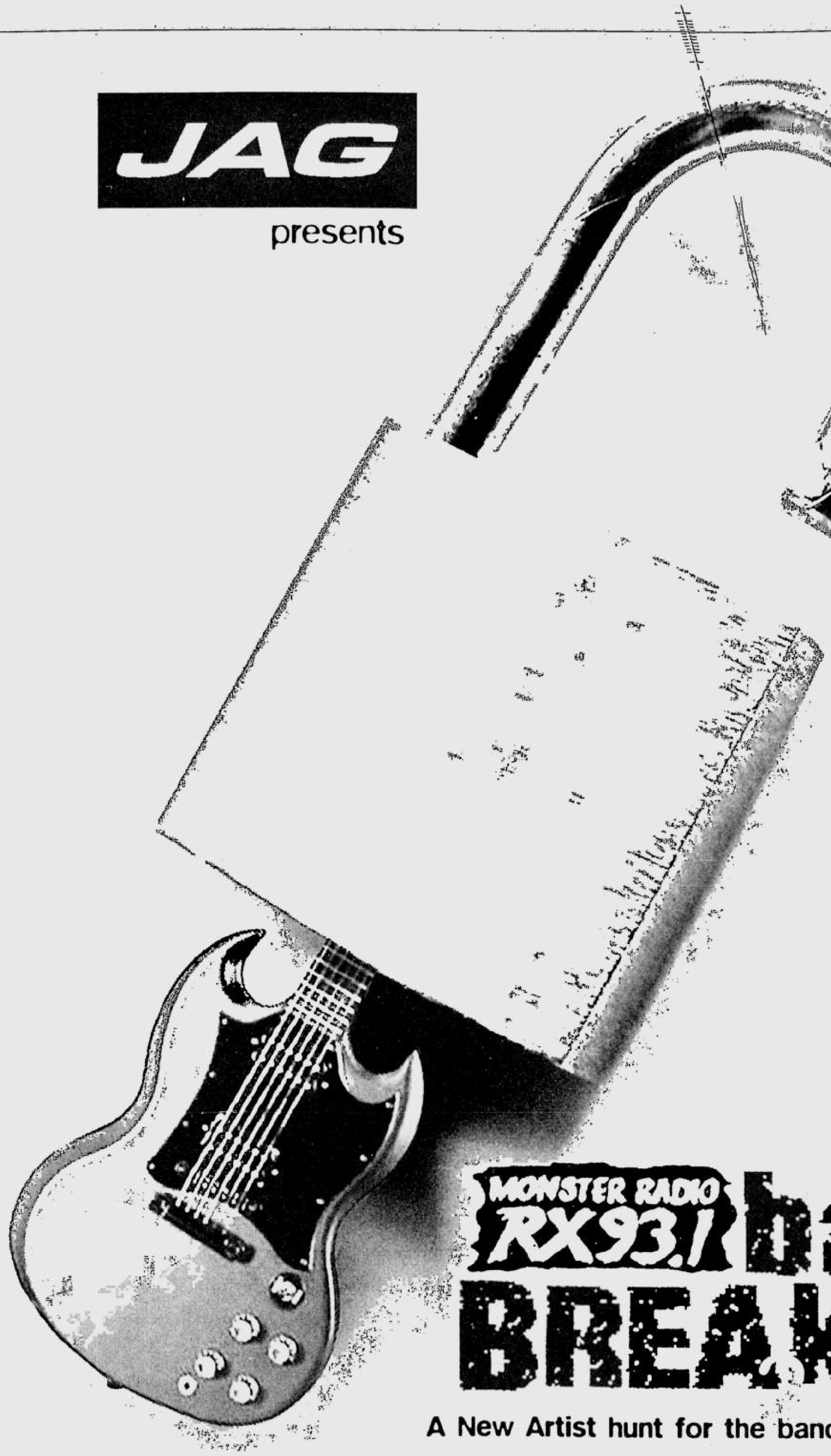

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Happiness is not having him around on Father's Day

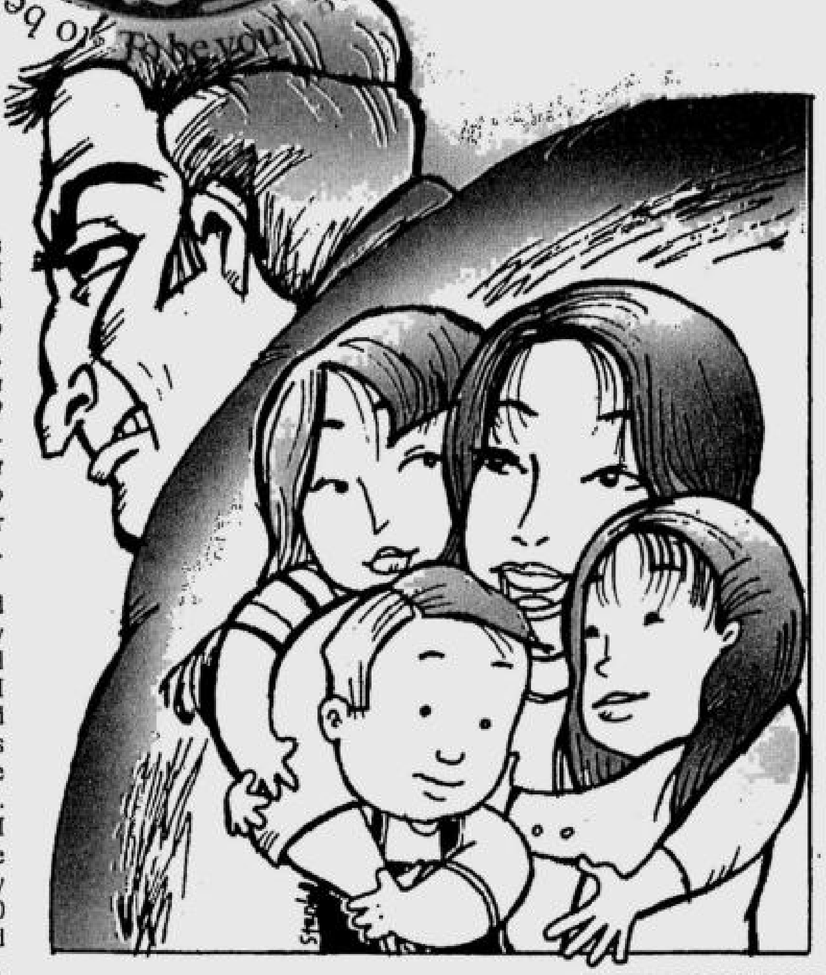

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

BY MARGARITA FALCON AS TOLD TO JULES ALCANTARA

It's almost Father's Day. Most of you are probably scrounging around or rushing to the malls trying to find a suitable gift other than a tie or a pack of socks or a mushy card that will best express what you feel for Daddy dearest.

But for 23-year-old Margarita Falcon (not her real name), this coming Sunday will be just like any normal day. In fact, she says it is more appropriate for her, her mother and her siblings, to celebrate Independence Day. No, it's not because they're a bunch of staunch nationalists. "It's because we're free from the person who almost ruined our lives," she says.

Margarita's parents have been separated for almost a decade now. Here's what else she has to say about her father.

WELL, forgive me for not joining the bandwagon and getting involved in the celebration [Father's Day]. It's not that I refuse to show deference to tradition or that I have a total disregard for the institution that is the family. On the contrary, I have such deep respect for it that anyone who violates the sacredness of the love, trust and union of the family is someone whom I would definitely loathe with a passion.

I don't hate my dad. I abhor him. Actually, it's a cross between loathing and indifference. My Dad... hmm *parang nakakailang* to call him that. He doesn't deserve it. I don't even remember anymore how he looks. It's amazing how I can't seem to remember what I bought in the mall last week or stuff like that, but I remember with clarity every single detail of those times when he abused my Mom and me. And when I say abuse, I mean emotionally, verbally and physically.

I remember one time, my Mom and I watched a movie and there was a storm brewing. When we got home, my Dad was already there, waiting for us. A slap and a punch in the gut greeted my Mom. I wasn't spared because he pretty much did the same except my body became very intimate with his leather belt [and buckle]. Then my Mom and I were ordered to go to the garden, and we stayed under the rain and the thunder till nighttime. I remember watching my Mom as she absentmindedly tore the flowers of a *santan* flower. She was crying. I knew that. I was cold and trembling; she was drenched. It was hard to distinguish her tears from the rain. All this because we watched a movie. No kidding!

One time, my Dad arrived and saw me playing cards with some of the helpers and farmers in our *hacienda*. He dragged me to the field and hit me with a horsewhip.

He constantly lectured and reminded me of my *utang na loob* to him and how it is my obligation to repay him for putting me to school, for giving me my name, for raising me. It was my obligation to help out my siblings and that's why I should finish school. He would wake my Mom and I up at an ungodly hour and deliver long-winded speeches about how I, his daughter, should make sure that my "obligations" are met.

You see, my Dad was utterly disappointed when he found out his first-born was a girl. Seeing that my Mom gave birth to me, a girl, he immediately left the hospital and went to watch a movie. My Dad is Spanish, one of the old and feudal variety. I don't want to sound racist, but I guess I just want to say he was the epitome of the chauvinist pig. I would always ask my Mom why he was that way.

Oh sure, there were good moments. I'd give my Dad credit for instilling in me a deep love for books and history. He got me permanently hooked on Johnny Mathis, Neil Diamond, Frank Sinatra and Duke Ellington.

I remember him taking me to Roces Sports Center one time and he just let me play and run around the oval. Little did I know that while I was busy playing and flying a kite, he was having a tryst with one of his women in the bleachers.

I remember there was a time he would diligently pick me up after class even though I had school bus service. We would head straight to his office afterward and there would always be food waiting for me, his minions ever so ready to entertain me while he attended to his business. Of course, I only realized years after that the "business" he was attending to was a member of his staff. Young and naïve that I was, it didn't seem out of the ordinary for me that we dropped her off at her house on our way home to my Mom. *Ang kapal ng tatay ko, grabe*. He was not above using me, his daughter, so that he could sleep around.

My childhood Christmases were not at all happy. *Noche buena* always ended with my Dad getting inebriated and delivering his annual Christmas monologue on how he deserved a better family and all that crap. No amount of action figures and Barbie Dolls could ever compensate for the torture my brother and I went through.

One particular Christmas night will forever haunt me. I was 12 years old. We had a lot of relatives in the house. It was past midnight and I decided to go up to my parents' room to sleep. As I was sleeping, something woke me up. Eyes half-closed, I realized that someone was touching me. It was dark but out of the corner of my eye, I realized it was my Dad who was touching me—touching me down there. I froze. My thighs couldn't move. I had pins and needles in the lower half of my body.

What was I supposed to do? This was my Dad! No, no, I kept telling myself, this is just a dream! It was like an out-of-body experience as I saw myself, still and rigid, while my dad's hand kept moving, kept touching me. Just close your eyes and go back to sleep, I told myself. But I couldn't and just waited for him to stop or for the dream to end. I kept telling myself it was all a bad dream and I would soon I wake up.

Some time passed and I must have fallen back to sleep. Then I woke up and went to the bathroom. It was just a bad dream *nga lang talaga*, I told myself. Then I realized I was so sore down there. It wasn't a dream or a nightmare. It really happened. My Dad molested me.

I never told my family about this. They know everything else but this one. Every single day of my life I ask myself if I should tell my Mom or my brother. *Hindi ko alam paano sabihin* 'coz *matagal na rin yun*. Ironic *ba*? *Kaya kung sabihin sa ibang tao pero sa* family *ko hindi*? I guess *kasi ayoko na silang masaktan. Di ko alam baka magagalit sila sa akin kasi ang tagal bago ako nagsalita*. Or *baka* my brother might do something to my Dad. *Mahirap... magulo eh.*

My yearly Christmas wish used to be that on Christmas Day, my Mom would wake me up and tell me, "I have something to tell you. I was gang raped by 10 strangers and I got pregnant with you. Your dad is not your real dad." I would have jumped for joy at that revelation. But I never got that wish. Instead, I finally got my second all-time favorite Christmas wish—for my Mom to leave my Dad. Almost 10 years ago, my Mom finally gathered the nerve to separate from my Dad.

He came to the house unannounced one time. The maids let him in and my grandma, who was in the extension house, did not notice his arrival. I was in my Mom's room watching TV. Then the maids told me my Dad was in the house and he was ransacking my brother's bedroom and mine. I ran to my room and saw him going through my stuff. I had begun smoking at that time and I had a mug of cigarette butts hidden in my closet. He saw it!

He started to slap me. I fought back! I started to hit him. We were all over the room and before I knew it, he punched me in the stomach so hard I literally flew and landed inside my closet. I threw everything I could lay my hands on at him, *pati na* the typewriter. Then he tore off a slab of wood from my favorite chair *na medyo sira-sira na*—the wood was like *dos por dos*—and he hit my thighs, my legs and my arms with it. My *lola* and the village guards [whom the maids called] came to intervene and stopped my dad from hitting me more. If not, *siguro namatay ako*. My thighs were so purple, *parang ube*. *Para nga raw ako* hazing victim.

Up to now, I still don't know why he was like that. He wasn't on drugs. *Hindi naman s'ya pinikot ng* Mom *ko*—in fact, it was the other way around.

I wish I understood him. But at this point, I really couldn't care less. As long as he is out of our lives and he doesn't bother us anymore, I can live my life not knowing why.

Sometimes I get jealous of my friends who have great fathers. I deserve just as much *pero ganun talaga*. I'm just really glad and grateful he is no longer in touch with us. We are better off without him. My Mom and my brothers and I are very close and we are happy.

That's my wish and my prayer now, you know. That he never comes back. '*Wag na sya magpakita kasi di namin sya kailangan*. That he never bothers us anymore.

E-mail the author at jules26@gurlmail.com

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Lifestyle Teen Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer

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We've just graduated from college and I'm thankful that we're still the best of friends. I also found a sister in her (I'm an only child).

We are now looking for a job but we make sure to still go out, watch a movie or just stroll at the mall. We always meet at a bookstore and while waiting for each other, it has become our habit to go to the card section and read **Between You and Me** cards because the messages are cool, romantic, cute and straight from the heart. I don't need to think of the right words to say because it's already written in the card.

I wish things will stay the same between Celine and me even when the time comes when we'll both have families of our own. I want our friendship to last for life!

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ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Some disown their sons and not out of jest, some choose to accept the fact but without any open discussion about the pros and cons

How fathers cope with gay sons

By Blue Arden

FATHER-AND-SON stories are heartwarming; everyone loves to hear them. Since it's a common notion that men aren't expressive enough, it's a relief to learn of stories that show men's feminine side. But these stories don't always end in a beautiful sunset. Some lead to a nasty maze that seems to end nowhere. This appears to be the case with parents dealing with the unorthodox sexuality of their son. These parents want the easiest and most conventional life for their children. Anything radical is a risk. But then, it's such a lousy excuse to justify parenting. Children would have to decide for themselves eventually.

Comfortable

Buffy is a 24 year-old professional. He is proud of the fact that he is now capable of supporting himself and his family, thanks to his good career. He is comfortable with the fact that he is gay, and is even proud of it. Like other gay men on the verge of being transsexual, Buffy has long hair and takes pills to enhance his feminine features. Therefore, he does not need to announce to his family that he is gay; it's simply obvious. "Since childhood, I've always been gay," he says. "And I've always been closer to my mom than to my dad." His father resents that fact; he blames his wife for his son's homosexuality. Although Buffy takes it in stride, he feels that there is no need for his father to blame anyone.

"I think it's a sign of rejection in itself," he explains. "We've never really discussed it and he has never reached out to me. In fact, he even tells people that I'm not his son. *Wala daw siyang anak na bakla.*" Any gay person would probably agree that to be disowned by one's parents, even in half-jest, would be the most painful thing. Who could ever accept being denied by one's own parents? "Of course, no one. Perhaps the younger you are, the more painful it is to hear those words. It hurt me before. But now, I think I'm strong enough to live by myself. I've matured enough."

Rommel's parents have explained to him that it would be difficult for any parent to accept a homosexual son or daughter. "I've never really told them that I'm one," he says. "But, of course, parents always know, whether they tell you or not." His mother's instinct about the sexuality of her son had prompted her to talk to the father about it. "*Wala na daw silang magagawa kung ganito ako*, that's how my mom paraphrased what my dad said," Rommel says. "But she explained that acceptance would be extremely difficult."

Discussion and acceptance

Open discussions about sensitive topics rarely take place in the Filipino family. "When my dad somehow accepted my sexuality, he just told me through text that it's fine with him," David, a 19-year-old discreet bisexual shares. "But whenever we see each other, we're silent about it."

David had just broken up with his boyfriend and started seeing another guy. It was his ex who texted his dad about his current affair. "My dad then texted me. His exact words were: 'Just do good in school and you won't hear anything from me.. I won't be a hindrance to your personal life.' It was definitely a relief for me. I think it was pretty open-minded of him to say that." And because of it, David loves his dad even more dearly.

"I think it's important for fathers to accept their sons no matter what they turn out to be," Rommel explains. "It's a validation of your identity, in a way." However, Buffy thinks it's not necessary. "If the gay person is strong enough, he'd definitely make it by himself. But if not, the pain of rejection might cause a lot of things that could deter him from functioning normally.

"Fathers should know enough," Buffy adds. "It doesn't mean that if his son is gay, *malas na siya sa buhay*. Everybody can contribute to the progress of society, whether straight or not."

E-mail the author at blue_arden @hotmail.com

Father's Day gift ideas from Marks & Spencer

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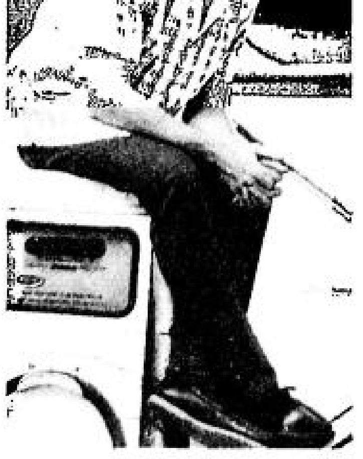

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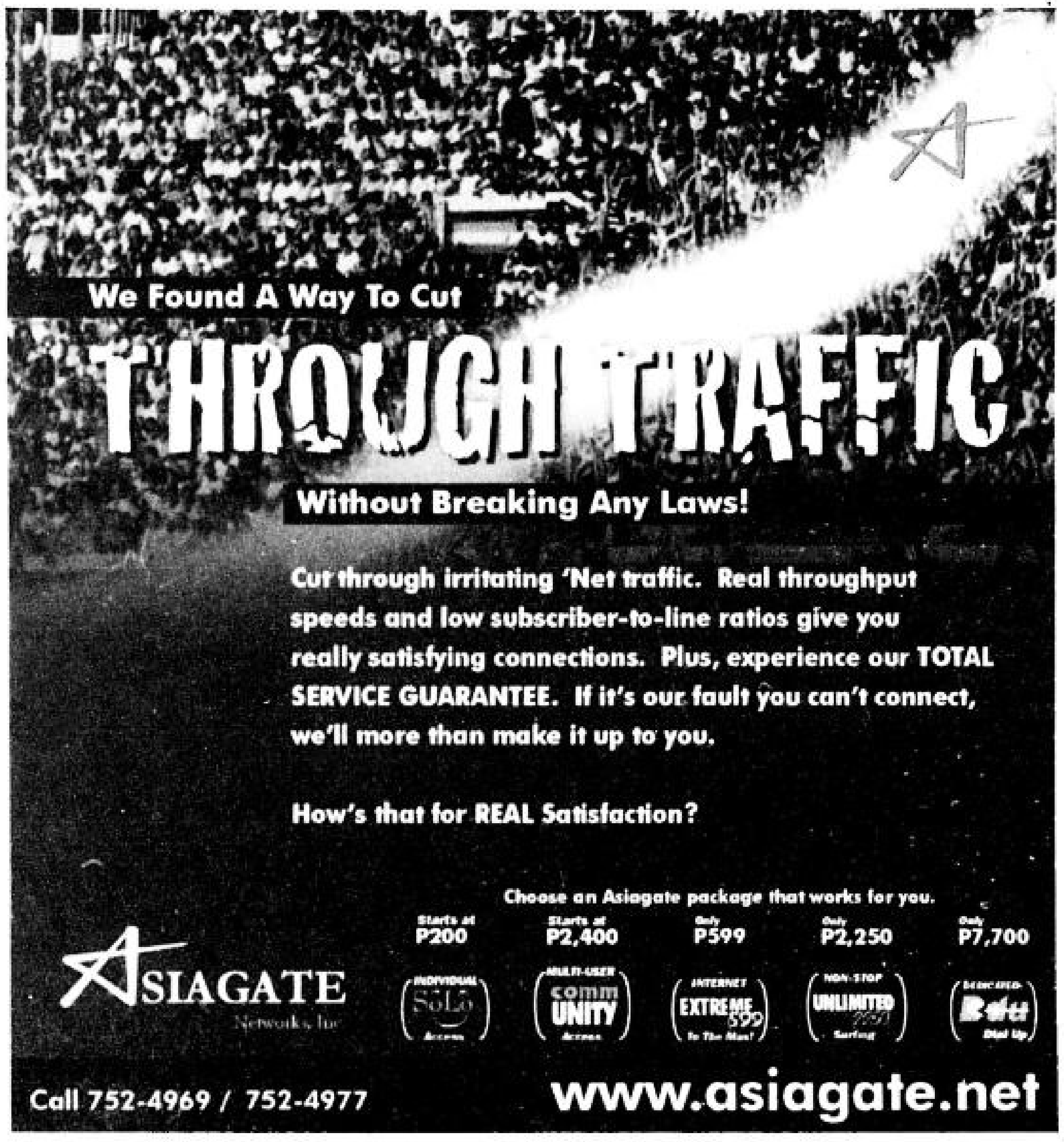

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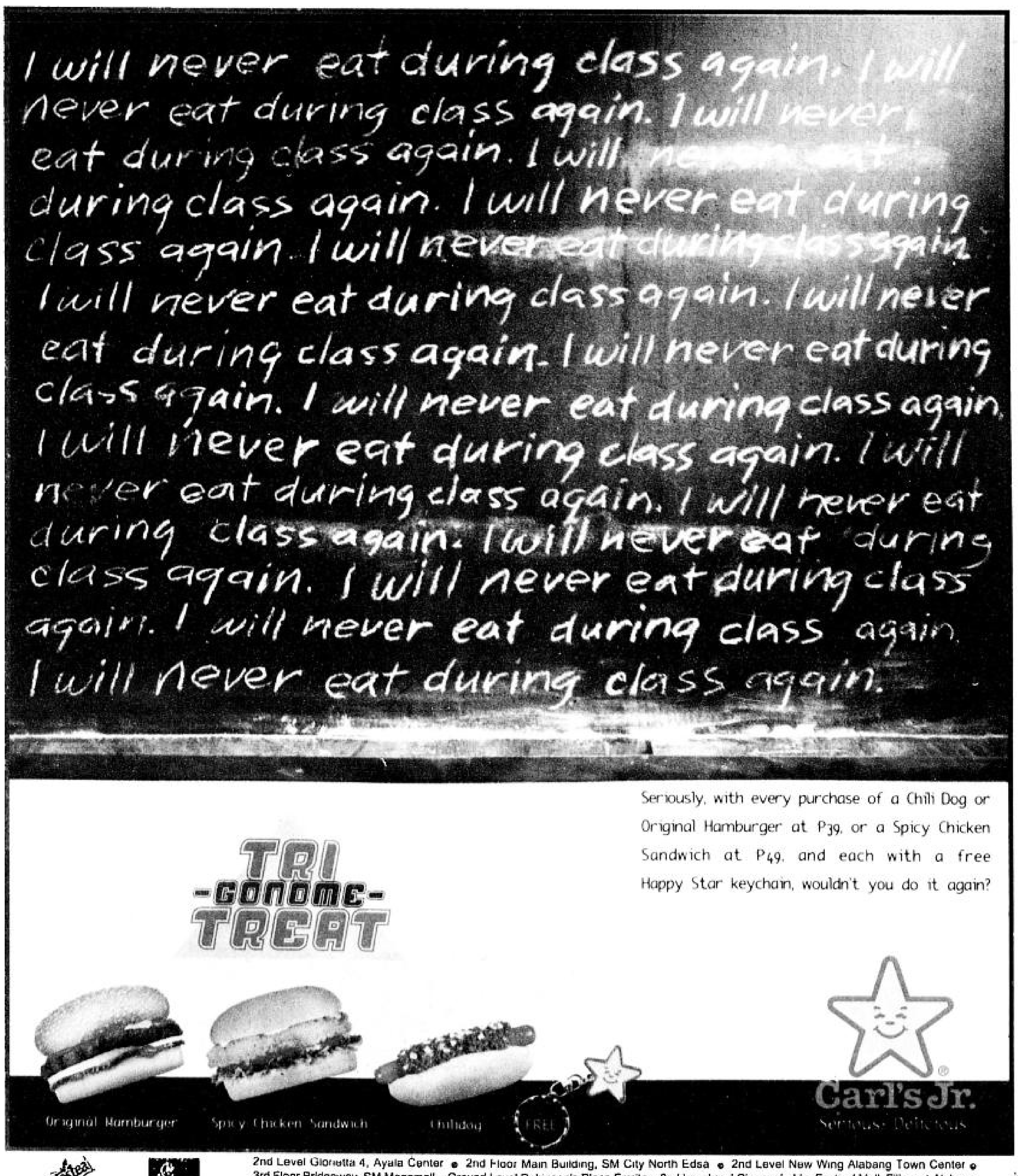

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Anticipating gay fatherhood

BY MARK PETER ZAMORA

IT was during my adolescence that I was affected by homosexual tendencies. Others did not see the conflict in me. What they saw was an A1 student and a good kid. The impression had some basis because I was naturally shy, quiet and introverted.

As the years went by, however, the tendencies ripened into something undeniable. But sensing the stigma society attaches to outcasts like me, I chose to be discreet.

Many times I crossed paths with attractive girls I genuinely liked. I would summon the courage to confess my feelings during which my heart would beat thrice its usual speed. In some of those cases, the girls would just laugh and suggest, "*Magpakatotoo ka*, brother, *este*, sister." This was long before the Sprite commercial popularized the phrase.

I guess that no matter how hard I tried to "straighten" myself up, certain gestures and words just gave me away.

So it didn't take an eternity before the much-repressed diva in me broke free from its chains. Gone were the days when I would stop myself from poring over fashion magazines and other girly readables. Gone were those days when I had to limit my wardrobe to boring loose polos and drab shirts twice my size. Finally, I was getting reacquainted with the me I stored in the freezer for so long.

And so I thought I was supposed to be gay, gay and gay—all the way.

Moment of illumination

Until I saw curvaceous lesbians in "The Sorority Sex Kittens." Much to my surprise and disbelief, I discovered I was having fun. Worse, I was aroused by the sight of these women cavorting in all their naked glory. I was having such a blast that it was only during the tape's end that I was able to switch back to my gay old self, curl my lips and ask for forgiveness from the divine divas.

The surprising discovery of my capability to entertain sexual thoughts about women (and actually be aroused) has once again made me ponder on my sexuality.

Just when I thought I was ready to be a sucker for men only, I am blown away by the realization that after all these years, I have been bisexual.

I was born again the day I accepted my homosexuality. I knew it was the start of a brand-new life for me and so I readied myself for all the things that go along with being gay—coming out, being discriminated, having a lover, practicing safer-than-safe sex, and adopting.

But the realization that I am emotionally and physically capable of not just having sex with but also making love to someone of the opposite sex has made me review my stand on having a family, particularly on having a child.

No matter how benevolent and fulfilling it is, I no longer entertain adopting a child. Why settle for someone I am not biologically related to, when I can have someone of my own blood?

Father's Day is fast approaching. As some dads eagerly anticipate their day on the 17th, I daydream of having juniors and experiencing fond feelings reserved only for fathers.

Bisexual dad

Being bisexual, I wonder how I will fare as a father. Will I be as authoritative as the straight ones? Will I be as effective? Even more, will I be less of a father because of my sexual preference?

I also wonder about the welfare of my kids, children of someone who gets attracted to both men and women, and who salivates after bodies between the pages of Playboy and Playgirl magazines. Will society be less cruel to them than it has been to me? Will they turn out to be gay? Will they end up narrow-minded and bigoted just like the people who torment their father simply because of his sexual identity? Will they accept, respect and love me?

Perfect. I can see it in the movie screen of my mind. Loving wife, adorable kids, nice house, cool car, a little dog. Sigh. Throw in a gay lover, stacks of Playboy/Playgirl magazines, rose petals and velociraptor—and now we have one big happier family! Sigh.

I guess I just can't ignore or run away from my true self. I guess I'm meant to stay away from tradition and conformity. I guess I've just been dealt with another set of tarot cards.

Meanwhile, I try to come up with names for my kids-to-be (Ewan Kuh, Mac Kulai, Kuwan-Buwan) and impatiently wait for my first-ever Father's Day.

> Being bisexual, I wonder how I will fare as a father. Will I be as authoritative as the straight ones? Will I be less of a father because of my sexual preference?

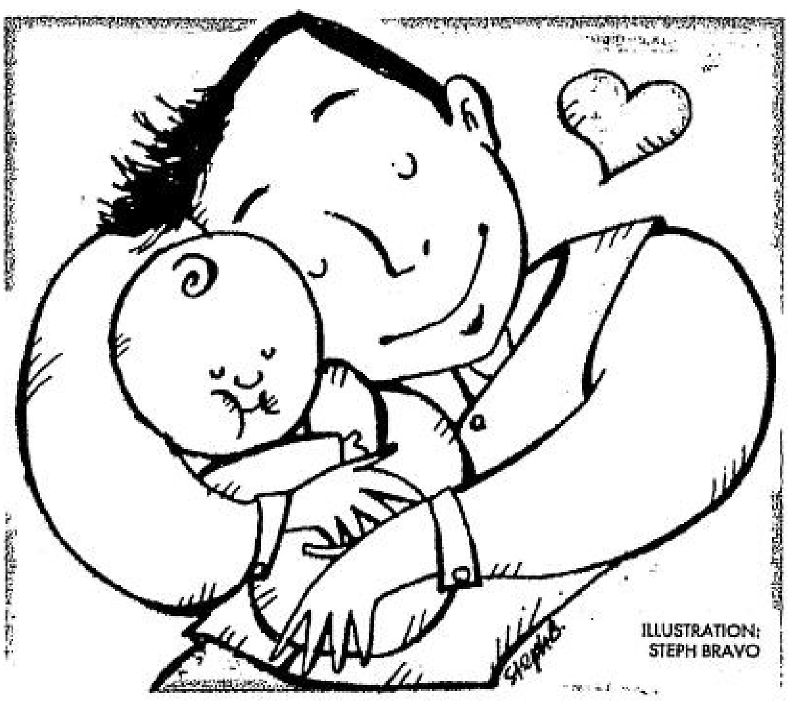

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Wireless movie club offers free tickets to 'Tomb Raider'

JOIN the Smart and Talk 'n' Text Movie Club and be a part of the newest wireless community. You will enjoy the various benefits of being a movie club member, including the chance to win premier tickets to the hottest movies. The first offering features the hit movie "Tomb Raider," starring Angelina Jolie as the sexy and intelligent computer-game character Lara Croft.

Movie Club is a text-based service from Smart Communications Inc. By registering as a member, Smart Gold, Smart Buddy and Talk 'n' Text subscribers will receive information about the latest movies, as download logos and ringtones, receive movie calendars and even play text-based games of the featured movie on their Smart and Talk 'n' Text cell phones.

Type in Join Movie and send to 239 to register. Additional instructions will be sent to the user detailing the next steps of the registration.

Seventy-five eligible Talk 'n' Text winners and 75 Smart GSM winners who register for the Movie Club until today, June 13, will get the chance to win four tickets each for the premier showing of "Tomb Raider" on June 17 at Cinema 10, SM Megamall.

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Techno o senti? Favorite song ng barkada, o
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POP	
RINGTONE	**KEYWORD**
Beat It	TONE BEATIT
Billie Jean	TONE BILLIEJ
Bizarre Love Triangle	TONE BIZARLUV
Black Or White	TONE BLAKWITE
Closing Time	TONE CLOSTIME
Pretty Fly	TONE PRETIFLY
Open Your Heart	TONE OPENUR
Lambada	TONE LAMBADA
Kiss From A Rose	TONE KISFROSE
Wake Me Up Before You Go Go	TONE WAKEMEUP
Unbelievable	TONE UNBELIV
Take On Me	TONE TAKEONME
Sweet Child O Mine	TONE SWEETCHI
Scar Tissue	TONE SCARTIS
What A Girl Wants	TONE WHATAGIRL
Genie In A Bottle	TONE GENIE
99 Luft Balloons	TONE 99RED
Every Little Thing She Does	TONE LITLTHNG
Dreaming Of You	TONE DRIMOFU
Breakout	TONE BRKOUT
Breakfast at Tiffany's	TONE TIFFANYS
Love Is All Around	TONE FOURWED
Kiss Me	TONE KISSME
I Try	TONE ITRY
I Love You Always Forever	TONE LUVULWYS
I Knew I Loved You	TONE IKNWLUVU
Somebody	TONE SUMBODY
Shout	TONE SHOUT
Save A Prayer	TONE SAVPRYR
Love Me For A Reason	TONE LUV4RISN
Love Is All That Matters	TONE LUVMATR
Suburbia	TONE SUBURB
Too Close	TONE 2CLOSE
Truly Madly Deeply	TONE TRULYMAD
You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling	TONE LOSTLOVN
Again	TONE AGAIN
Am I The Same Girl	TONE SAMEGIRL
Jump	TONE JUMP
Escapade	TONE ESCAPADE
Layla	TONE LAYLA
Always Something There	TONE SUMTINDER
All The Small Things	TONE SMALTING
Other Side	TONE ODERSYD

ROCK	
RINGTONE	**KEYWORD**
Black Dog	TONE BLACKDOG
All Star	TONE ALLSTAR
Someday	TONE SUMDAY
IRIS	TONE IRIS
Head Over Heels	TONE HEDOVRHIL
Strange Love	TONE STRNGELV
The Final Countdown	TONE FINALCNT
Turning Japanese	TONE JAPANIS
Under The Bridge	TONE UNDRBRDG
Hotel California	TONE HOTELCALI
WholeLotta Love	TONE WHOLAATALUV
Love Potion No. 9	TONE LUVPOTION
Losing My Religion	TONE LOSINMY
Under the Influence	TONE INFLUENCE

PARTY	
RINGTONE	**KEYWORD**
Better Off Alone	TONE OFFALONE
Big Pimpin	TONE BIGPIMPN
Children	TONE CHLDRN
Sweet like Chocolate	TONE CHOCLT
Together Again	TONE 2GDERAGN
Love Shack	TONE LUVSHAK
Conga	TONE CONGA
Vengabus (We like to party)	TONE VENGABUS

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What makes you proud to be Filipino?

MARY Co

SHARLEEN Uy

MARCUS Figueroa

2bU! asks young people just what is it about our country that they love

ANG galeng natin mangopya… kuhang kuha!—**JC, 19**

Just looking at the national flag makes my heart swell with pride, and our hospitality and ability to smile amid all the pain.—**JM Farren, 23, V-AMC**

We have a lot of "Only in the Philippines" practices. Even lower middle class families have household helpers; extended families are treated like that of the immediate; *bayanihan* is widely practiced, and more. People who possess the Filipino soul and keep their Filipino identity anywhere make me proud of my country. People such as Joey Ayala.—**Ivanna Aguiling 19, UA&P, IMC**

Roast suckling pig… in short, *lechon*.—**Cris, 18, Mapua**

Overseas contract workers. On a recent cruise abroad, most of the staff were Filipino... We enjoyed the trip more because of the little extra effort they put in to make us feel very important guests. We were offered *tuyo* (in case we were starting to feel homesick), peanuts, chips, hot chocolate and coffee free of charge! We were, after all, *magkababayan*…—**Sharleen Uy, 20, UP Diliman, chemical engineering**

Filipinos value the importance of family ties and are very hospitable people. I am proud to be one despite all the negative happenings lately.—**Demnard Uyvico, 19 UA&P, politics and economics**

We're such a happy lot. Our ability to see the humor in everything… Look at People Power II. It was such a big party who would've thought that the country was going through all that turmoil? Look at all the texts being forwarded in a day. That's why it's only here in the Philippines that text thrives… In other countries, *wala lang iyon* because they don't have the time… too busy. *Para sa kanila* [it's a] waste of time. But for us, that's important to keep us sane. That's why we all should be thankful to our helpers and drivers who do everything else for us… and affords us to have all the fun.—**Mary Co, 20, PSID**

Filipinos are very attached. They treasure family ties, platonic and spousal relationships are given layers of importance. People like Lea Salonga inspire others, specifically the youth, to work for national unity.—**Charissa Aguiling, 15, Miriam College**

It is the Filipinos' strength to stand up after each fall. There have been countless events that brought down the nation—invasions, martial law, coups—but the Filipino fought and stood up for what was right. This is not just for the nation as a whole but each Filipino has that character inside him when faced with trials…—**Marcus Figueroa, 20, UA&P, infotech**

Citem/Fame, [for] showcasing Filipino ingenuity, creativity and resourcefulness..Only during this event that comes twice a year do I forget all the crises and remember how proud I am to be a Filipino. Seeing all these products making it big in the international market without compromising the Filipino style and identity… Furniture for Ralph Lauren… Bags for Kate Spade… Jewelry for Macy's…—**Regina, 19, PSID**

We get to bend the rules! Like *lagay*… Is that a good thing? To put it in a better way, we're very *pasensiyoso* and understanding.—**JP Villa, 20, UA&P, economics**

The band Wolfgang.—**Leelee, 18**

Our happy-go-lucky attitude, optimistic outlook in life and our unique and amusing mannerisms.—**Jean Tan, 20, CSB, AB Multimedia Arts**

Pinoys basically are very warm people. Why do you think we have all these foreign beauty queens, performers coming over and some even settling here for good? Because only here are they given extra-special attention they can't get abroad.—**Robin Amoranto, UA&P**

Only Filipinos show great respect for elders with special words like "*po*" and "*opo*"… Ingenuity—natives who use our own natural resources to create useful and beautiful products make me proud to be their *kababayan*.—**Francesca de Guzman, 19, UP Baguio**

Doc Rizal. Filipinos do everything with heart… *kaya naman lahat na ginagawa natin* special.—**Charles Foster, 20, UA&P, IMC**

People Power II. Filipinos are easy to please, down-to-earth individuals who have strong faith in God.—**Marie Tycangco, 20, AdMU**

It's easier to get a visa abroad!—**Gopal Daswani, 20, UA&P, IMC**

Mangga at bagoong!—**Nini Padilla, 19, UA&P, Management**

Edsa II. *Galing*.—**Scrappy, 20**

Compiled by Happy David

NINI Padilla

ed TM

NES na trip mo, nandito na!

theme song n'yo ni honey? Get the tunes

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TV

RINGTONE	KEYWORD
Babylon 5	TONE BABYLON5
Batman Theme	TONE BATMAN
Flintstones (TV Cue)	TONE FLINTSTO
Ally Mcbeal Theme	TONE ALLYMC
Doogie Howser Theme	TONE DOOGIE
Jeopardy Theme	TONE JEPRDY
ScoobyDoo Theme	TONE SCOOBY
Simpsons Theme	TONE SIMPSONS
Hawaii Five-O	TONE HAWAII
Dallas (TV Cue)	TONE DALLAS

MOVIE

RINGTONE	KEYWORD
Dying Young	TONE DIEYOUNG
Duel Of The Fates	TONE EPISODE1
Godfather Theme	TONE GODFATHER
The Imperial March	TONE IMPERIAL
Under The Sea	TONE UNDERSEA
Addams Family Theme	TONE ADDAMS
Starwars 3 Theme	TONE STRWRS3
Rocky Theme	TONE ROCKY
I Say A Little Prayer	TONE SAYALIL
I Don't Wanna Miss a Thing	TONE MISATING
Animal Song	TONE ANIMAL
X Men Theme	TONE XMEN
Superman Theme	TONE SUPERMAN

PRAISE

RINGTONE	KEYWORD
Theres None Like You	TONE NONLIKEU
God Is the Strength of My Heart	TONE GODSTREN
Give Thanks	TONE GIVETKS
Under the Influence	TONE INFLUENCE
Victory Chant	TONE VICTORY

SUMMER

RINGTONE	KEYWORD
Holiday	TONE HOLIDAY
Summer Nights from the movie Grease	TONE GREASE
Summer Holiday	TONE SUMMERHOL
Kokomo	TONE KOKOMO
Walking On Sunshine	TONE WALKONSUN
Tequila	TONE TEQUILA
I Can See Clearly Now	TONE CCLEARLY
Day O (Banana Boat Song)	TONE DAYO

OLDIES

RINGTONE	KEYWORD
New York New York	TONE NEWYORK
It Might Be You	TONE MYTBU
Fantasy	TONE FANTASY
You Needed Me	TONE UNIDME
El Condor	TONE ELCONDOR
The Hustle	TONE HUSTLE
Rock Around The Clock	TONE ROCKAROU
Proud Mary	TONE PROUDMRY
Light My Fire	TONE MAFIRE

OPM

RINGTONE	KEYWORD
Burn	TONE BURN
Delicious	TONE DELICIOUS
Remember me	TONE REMBERME
Mister Love	TONE MRLOVE

SPECIAL

RINGTONE	KEYWORD
Birdland	TONE BIRDLAND
Songbird	TONE SONGBIRD
Fiddler On The Roof	TONE FIDDLER

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Nothing but the best

BY MICHELLE PINO

OUT to find the superb gift for the first-rate Dad in your life? The numerous gift suggestions in malls are of no help? Fret no more. Stop being wishy-washy. 2bU! has a list of ways to make him feel loved and appreciated.

1. Oh, TIE a yellow ribbon round the old, old… Ever wonder if Daddy will look neat with a tie adorned with your favorite Looney Toons or Disney Character? Wonder no more and get that tie with your favorite cartoon character. Just make sure that it goes along with the usual colors of his office polo. Who knows? You might be stirring the best childhood memories in him.

2. Baby you can DRIVE my car… Be Daddy's personal driver for a day or two. Show him how much you appreciate the times he had to drive you to your school every day, ballgame and training every weekend, camp once a year, and even your dates every two weeks. Just make sure you have the license to do so.

3. MUSIC makes the people come together… Buy Daddy those hard-to-find CDs by Frank Sinatra, Matt Monroe or the Beach Boys. If you don't have the slightest idea of what kind of music Daddy is into (shame on you), torment Mom to hand out the gory details. You might even discover that Dad is into techno.

4. Kahit maputi na ang BUHOK ko… Daddy isn't ready yet for the gray-hair phenomena? Do him a favor and give him a hair dye in his favorite color. But please seek professional help and constantly reassure Daddy that he is still the best-looking man in the world. Where else did you get your good looks and charm?

5. Always keep a little pray'r in your POCKET… Invocation will keep Daddy safe but also try filling his pocket with a new wallet. Probe if Daddy would prefer a leather, rubber, or fabric wallet. And if you're really into this, personalize it with your name. He will never forget your allowance and your regular raise. Just don't overdo it.

6. Just CALL my name and I'll be there… Daddy is out of reach? Give him a ring. What's the use of all those cheap call rates if you don't take advantage of it? Let him know that you miss him. It'll bring more delight than a door-to-door package.

7. Remember when we were driving, driving in your CAR… Not in a million years will you be able to buy Daddy's dream wheels but you can help him accessorize the mobile he now owns. Visit those automobile shops in malls and see what you can get for him. There is a wide variety of choices—from cool, hip sunshields to simple, cute air fresheners. It's the thought that counts, remember?

8. DANCE with me, I want to be your partner… Take Daddy out on a date with all your siblings. Go ballroom dancing, bowling or car washing. If he likes less energy-draining and less body-stretching activities, then eat out and share a whole pizza with him. Just make it a point that you don't get in the way of his date with Mom.

9. I WRITE the songs that make the whole world sing … Daddy has this whole collection of fountain pens, sign pens, ballpoint pens and mechanical pens. Why not buy him another one? Your pen will be the out-of-the-ordinary pen. Engrave on the conventional pen your own beloved pet name for him.

10. Can't buy me LOVE… If all else fails, nothing beats a huge hug and sincere effort of making him proud of his whippersnapper… er… child. Fathers are proud creatures. Nothing can surpass the pride brought by the success of his children. Be a good descendant, adherent, follower, disciple, advocate, devotee and student to him and he won't wish for anything more.

She's 14, he's 21: Does age matter?

September Mahino & Carlos Garchitorena

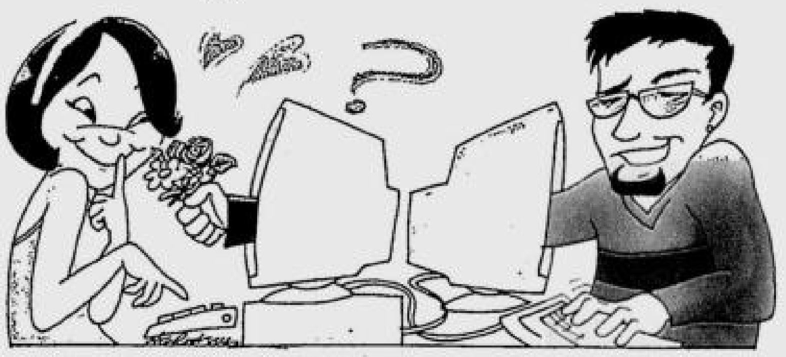

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

I went to the Pinoy Chatroom one day and I met a guy. Let's just call him Mickey. We chatted until the afternoon and we even exchanged our pics. He told me that he liked me and I also liked him, but he's already 21. I asked if he was serious and he told me that he was not joking. He started e-mailing me. But I told him that if he really liked me he should wait. I just want to ask if it is okay to have a boyfriend like him. I'm only 14. He's really cool. If I let him court me, wouldn't it be weird to the people who see us walking hand in hand because he's five years older than me? My cousins and relatives say that I should go for it because I like him and they like him also and they say that age doesn't matter. I also like to ask him what should I do to attract him.

BEACHBUM GIRL

Standing two steps behind the impeccable reputation of this newspaper, I launched into the dedicated search for the most pertinent and captivating response to the day-to-day disaster you call life. In this situation, I needed the most in-depth perspectives to your story, which has the potential to be featured as an immunity challenge in Survivor, Africa.

To this task, I queried my relatives about your problem and asked them what they would tell me if it were my problem. The results were mixed (names withheld upon request):

"21-14=7, not 5."—aunt, mathematician

"The best sexual encounters I had were on the Net."—cousin, a tightrope acrobat

"I was in jail when I met my future husband through a prison-pen-pal program and we fell in love writing letters. We exchanged mug-shots and arranged to meet during an attempted escape. He wanted to get married so I asked him to wait for five years for parole and he tried to stab me. Badtrip."—cousin, drug dealer

So there you have it! I hope my relatives were as helpful as yours. To answer your final question, how to attract him, that's as easy as a mayor's daughter on ecstacy. Tell him that the photo you sent him was taken before you had silicone breast implants.

CALOY

I'm not sure what you'd really like to happen. On one hand, you're getting as much approval as you can because you obviously want to flash Mickey the green light. On the other hand, you're making demands on him to wait for you until you turn 21. To be safe, go with what you demand of him; let him wait. What your cousins and relatives say do have weight because it is a good sign if the guy you like is liked by the people you love, but don't let their opinions override your common sense.

But I'm slightly appalled that your relatives are prodding you into entering something you're still unsure of. You're only 14, my dear. Age may not matter much but maturity does. If the idea of people judging the age gap between you freaks you out, then you're most probably lacking in that department as of now. But don't worry, you'd still grow.

This Mickey sounds a bit hokey, though. His sensibilities don't seem to be offended by your age. He may come off as a cool dude to you, but any adult with an attitude that is as predatory as his is can only be a loser.

SEP

The lowdown on makeup removers and cleansers

Kinny Salas

CAN you recommend a makeup remover for oily skin? Most cleansing creams or lotions are too greasy for my skin so I have to follow up with soap and water, and then astringent, to make sure I have taken out the entire pore-clogging residue. Soap and water, on the other hand, does not do a good job of removing all traces of makeup. I hope you can recommend a shorter way for me to clean off skin and stale makeup, preferably a makeup remover/cleanser that feels like soap and is water-clean and will let me go straight to my astringent.

JANINE

First off, look for products labeled for oily skin, then check out those labeled with: a) facial wash such as Neutrogena Deep Clean or Acne Wash—these lather like liquid soap but have enough moisture that dissolves the water-proof ingredients that make cosmetics set; b) cleansing gel like H2O plus or Biore—these are applied like cleansing creams and are as efficient but without the greasy feel. They rinse right off with lots of water. No need to tissue off; c) nongreasy or oil-free cream cleansers/makeup remover such as that of Clinique or VMV Hypoallergenic. The oily skin counterpart of cleansing lotion. Water-soluble and doesn't leave a greasy feel.

The examples above are those I have tried in the past and have yielded, in my opinion, satisfying results.

* * *

I DO about 300-400 abdominal crunches daily for seven months now. My stomach did shrink a lot but it's still not flat. I make it a point to set aside time for this. I have a hectic office schedule so I cannot really go to the gym daily. I only get to go twice a week, but I do my crunches in my private office. What else can I do?

JT

The purpose of the crunches is to tone the muscles. Your abdominal muscles must be very well developed by now. However, you will not see it under the layer of stubborn fat above it. This stubborn fat is the reason your abs are still not flat and your muscles are not yet visible.

The only way to get rid of this layer of fat is through aerobic activity. Try for 25-40 minutes of aerobic activity a day. Dancing, brisk walking and jogging are usually the ones with the highest success rate. When else will you squeeze in the time?

Decrease your crunches and invest in a mini stepper to put in your office or at home while you're watching TV. Eventually, the fat will melt off and you will finally see those muscles that are long hidden.

* * *

I GET embarrassed at parties when I kiss people because lately my arms and neck get sticky and sweaty because of the heat. When I try to put powder, it all clumps up on my neck like white *libag* and is really embarrassing. Can you teach me a technique?

YOLLY

Apply a cornstarch powder right after you have dried up from the shower. Cornstarch absorbs sweat and has the toughest barrier against sweat and oil. Unfortunately, this heat will beat it after a while. Reapplying it on sticky skin will lead to clumping.

There are two new powder formulas in the market you could give a try. One is liquid powder by Bath and Body works. It goes on as a lotion and dries to a powder finish. Since it starts off as liquid, it won't clump with sweat. Another option is the Johnson's silky feel powder with jojoba oil. It has a moisturizer so it glides on to skin and blends in without clumping.

For any questions, or products you want to road-test, write to Makeover 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax at 897-4805

Who moves you the most?

Pick the 6
COTTON USA
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Jude Eustaquio, 13
Golfer
"I know I need to share and inspire teens like me to get into sports. Someday, I want to be one of the top golfers in the PGA Tour."

Chris de Lima, 18
Archer
"Archery teaches focus, cooperation, and responsibility. These are the real prizes."

Kim Kwok, 14
Opera singer
"If you can sing opera, you can sing just about anything else, like pop. But if you just sing pop, you can't sing opera."

Miggy Yam, 6
Soccer player
"I practice hard and do my best because I want to be like Pele."

Mazie Cajucom, 16
Actress
"I was never shy. I always wanted to perform. I believe that if you really want something, don't be afraid -- go for it."

Mich Dulce, 19
Fashion designer
"Everything around me, the people I meet, and the journeys I embark on become the inspiration for my work and craft."

Hans Dimayuga, 12
Actor
"On stage, lessons are learned, pesos are earned. Great! But the best part comes with… the curtain call!"

Celine Guillermo, 6
Painter
"I love to paint. When I grow up, I want to be a painter, ballerina and a doctor."

Pauline Baniqued, 14
Writer
"I have always felt that in a string of words is a power that touches souls, and can heal those who have been terribly hurt."

Mariel Alfonso, 12
Ballet dancer
"Dancing teaches discipline. It taught me to focus, to develop my skills. It taught me how to balance both my studies and ballet."

Cara Damian, 5
Ice skater
"I like to feel the wind on my face. I like the feeling when I'm gliding."

Paolo Bagaman, 10
Honor student and leader
"My intelligence will help me persevere in helping my parents and my country. I want to be president someday."

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